



Fight for freedom

2020 EUROPEAN REPORT

ON THE ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORK OF
THE SALVATION ARMY ACROSS EUROPE

/ THE SALVATION ARMY **EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OFFICE** /

*Fight
for
freedom*



2020 EUROPEAN REPORT

ON THE ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORK OF
THE SALVATION ARMY ACROSS EUROPE

CONTENTS

Major Mike Stannett	3
<i>Head of The Salvation Army European Affairs Office</i>	
Jeroen Hoogteijling	5
<i>Chair of the European Anti-Human Trafficking Council</i>	
Introduction: About this report	6
Background and context	7
How and why The Salvation Army works on human trafficking	10
Good practice examples	17
The European Framework	22
Key challenges	24
Personal testimonies	26
Country reports	
<i>Belgium</i>	28
<i>Czech Republic</i>	29
<i>Denmark</i>	31
<i>Estonia</i>	32
<i>Finland</i>	32
<i>France</i>	35
<i>Georgia</i>	36
<i>Germany</i>	38
<i>Greece</i>	41
<i>Hungary</i>	43
<i>Iceland</i>	44
<i>Italy</i>	45
<i>Latvia</i>	46
<i>Moldova</i>	47
<i>The Netherlands</i>	49
<i>Norway</i>	51
<i>Poland</i>	53
<i>Portugal</i>	54
<i>Romania</i>	55
<i>Russia</i>	57
<i>Slovakia</i>	58
<i>Sweden</i>	58
<i>Switzerland</i>	60
<i>Ukraine</i>	62
<i>United Kingdom</i>	64
Conclusions	68
Recommendations	70



This report illustrates the complexities of the issues ... and hurdles that hinder breaking out of the cycle of poverty and exploitation and back to normal life.

MAJOR MIKE STANNETT

HEAD OF THE SALVATION ARMY
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OFFICE

DURING THE WRITING of this report on the work of The Salvation Army across Europe in the area of anti-human trafficking, Europe has been recovering from recent crises, including the economic crisis and the following austerity; the unprecedented influx of refugees and migrants; then, on top of that, the COVID-19 pandemic; followed by Black Lives Matter protests due to present-day racial injustice originating from the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

These gigantic pressures and tensions are the breeding ground for exploitation. They are the push-and-pull factors which create the environment for modern-day slavery and human trafficking.

*'Trafficking does not exist in a vacuum, it is enabled by systems that devalue human life, where profit and greed are valued above basic needs of human existence.'**

It is into this world that The Salvation Army endeavours to make an impact on the wickedness of modern-day slavery and human trafficking.

This report illustrates the complexities of the issues, the labyrinthine pathways and hurdles that hinder breaking out of the cycle of poverty and exploitation and returning to normal life.

It illustrates how The Salvation Army, at all levels, across Europe is placing its personnel, skills, compassion, resources and faith into this battle, in cooperation with other organisations and agencies.

There are many issues that we want to highlight and bring to your attention and that of the policy makers. With our recommendations we believe a difference can be made.

There are so many factors to identify which should be seen as a priority, however this quotation from a young victim at one of the Salvation Army centres in Hungary, perhaps says more than I can put into words in this space.

'.....I don't understand why, I have never received so much love, and for me it is difficult to accept, I don't deserve it.'

There is so much behind these words as to why she feels this way, why it happened to her (or anybody), how will she recover and what her future is.

This report has, perhaps in a small way, some answers. By the grace of God we pray so.

**Quote taken from the conclusion of this report, written by Abriel Schieffellers*

*Fight
for
Freedom*





Motivated by the pain-filled stories of so many (potential) victims and survivors in the communities we serve, we continue our combat to stop human trafficking.



JEROEN HOOGTEIJLING

CHAIR OF THE EUROPEAN
ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING COUNCIL

THE EUROPEAN Anti Human Trafficking (AHT) Task Force of The Salvation Army in Europe was established in 2013 in Budapest with the commissioning of National AHT Contact Persons (NCPs) in countries across Europe. The European leaders of The Salvation Army Social Services, represented in the European Network of Social Services (ENSS), initiated the AHT Task Force to effectively, as one Army, combat the great injustice of human trafficking.

Over the past years the work of the European AHT network has developed to such an extent that it is no longer guided by the (project-based) AHT Task Force, but by a European AHT Council. The Council has a more permanent status and representation in the International Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Response Council (IMSHTR Council) of the Salvation Army worldwide. The International Council exists to ensure the development of a strong and sustainable MSHT response in every territory, command and region embedded within The Salvation Army structures. The embedding of the European AHT Council within the International Council opens new opportunities for transnational cooperation between countries in Europe and countries in other continents to effectively address the needs of victims coming from Africa (like Nigeria), Asia and (Latin) America who are exploited in Europe.

In 2018 and 2019 annual NCP conferences were held in Geneva, Switzerland and in Athens, Greece. In Geneva the *Safe Havens* film, funded by the EU Commission, about the AHT work of The Salvation Army in

Europe was launched and a round-table meeting held with United Nations (UN) representatives of non-governmental organisations to jointly discuss the challenges and the role of The Salvation Army within the international AHT network. In Athens the further strategy of the three-year Pan-European AHT Campaign (2019-2021), launched in February 2019, was developed with a focus on what needs to be changed in our countries and communities to put an end to trafficking and how to engage the general public, for example through petitioning, to make this happen.

On a very special occasion on EU AHT day 18 October 2019, in a meeting at the European Parliament with MEPs in Brussels, we presented the launch of the Pan European Campaign and the outcomes of the Safe Havens Project, funded by the EU Commission. A survivor of human trafficking was present to share her story with a clear call to what countries and the EU could do more to protect and care for victims of trafficking.

Motivated by the pain-filled stories of so many (potential) victims and survivors in the communities we serve, we continue our combat to stop human trafficking. We hope that this report may inspire you to join us in this fight for human justice and freedom. To my belief, it's only if we make a stand together, by God's grace, that we can liberate our societies from all forms of modern-day slavery!

*Fight
for
freedom*

INTRODUCTION

TERMS

AHT: Anti-human trafficking

NCP: National Contact Person

PTSD: Post-traumatic stress disorder

SDGs: Sustainable development goals

THB: Trafficking in human beings

About this report

The Salvation Army has a dedicated history of working with the most vulnerable people across the globe, motivated by its Christian faith and the belief that all of humanity is worthy of the dignity and care that is shown to us all in the life and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Human trafficking is an issue that has been part of The Salvation Army's mission since its beginnings in the late 19th century. With a ministry in 131 countries worldwide, including in 21 of the 27 EU member states, The Salvation Army is active in source, transit and destination countries and continues to work towards justice for all victims of trafficking in all forms.

The aim of this publication is to examine the anti-trafficking work of The Salvation Army in Europe and to extract from this important work recommendations for EU and national level policy makers. This mapping report is also a useful resource for The Salvation Army in Europe and beyond, as it offers a look at best practice, key challenges, and opens the doors for increased communication and partnership between countries. After a first edition in 2016 and an updated version in 2018, we have chosen to publish an updated version of this report in order to include new projects and highlight changes in the European landscape in regard to trafficking.

This report has been drafted by The Salvation Army European Affairs Office together with The Salvation Army's European Anti-Human Trafficking Council. It is intended to support the advocacy work of the office at EU level as well as through the European AHT Network. The report should



be used to help communicate and make visible the work undertaken by The Salvation Army in this field, specifically to European decision makers and European partners. For this reason, recommendations are included, made by our national experts working at grassroots/national levels who have experience in the provision of anti-trafficking services as well as in advocacy and awareness raising.

On a practical level, this mapping report serves to strengthen the European AHT Network. By collecting information about successful projects and ways of working, the hope is that this mapping report supports mutual learning in The Salvation Army and that National Contact Persons (NCPs) as well as Salvation Army leaders can be inspired by what colleagues in other countries are doing and will consider developing and advancing their own AHT work.

The contents of this report (namely country reports, challenges and recommendations) have come from the NCPs who were sent a questionnaire to complete.

This report takes its name from the new International Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Response Strategy, described in detail later in this report. It is our hope that The Salvation Army worldwide can join together in solidarity to more effectively fight human trafficking through the implementation of this new strategy.

*Fight
for
freed*



BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

HUMAN TRAFFICKING OCCURS in every country, for multiple purposes, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced criminality, forced begging, organ removal and forced marriage. Trafficking in human beings is often linked to other forms of organised crime and the UN estimates it is the second-largest source of illicit profit after the drugs trade. The hidden nature of trafficking makes it difficult to know exactly how many people are caught in trafficking but reports by the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimate there are about 40.3 million victims.

The Salvation Army uses the following UN definition: of trafficking: *“Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.’*

Trafficking and COVID-19

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated the living conditions of victims of trafficking and heightened the susceptibility to trafficking of vulnerable groups. While in-depth research has not yet been conducted, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has released a report on trafficking during COVID-19 that sounds the alarm for national governments, communities and practitioners about the current situation. Identification of victims, already a difficult task, has become even more complicated under lockdown situations. Victims are also more likely to be exposed to and contract the virus, due to their work in informal or unregulated sectors. Children are at an increased risk of exploitation due to school closures and increasingly exposed to online predators or in unsafe family situations where they are forced to be on the streets begging or in search of food or income. Child rights groups have reported an increase in demand for online sexual abuse material. For those in domestic servitude or sex trafficking, the confinement measures in many countries may lead to a more violent and exploitative living situation.

The UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has also noted that limitations on movement could hinder the ability of victims to escape or get help, and stress that refugees and displaced and stateless people are most at risk of increased exposure to trafficking.

In the continuation and aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis there is a pronounced need for The Salvation Army to mobilise to prevent an increase in trafficking and support victims of trafficking who are faced with a loss of income, exposure to the virus and decreased access to social services. Awareness raising about fraudulent job offers through job verification programmes is one area that The Salvation Army has developed in recent years that will prove to be increasingly necessary in the midst of COVID-19. The development of these job verification programmes both in countries where they already exist and in countries where they have not yet been initiated could impact the lives of countless vulnerable job seekers.

In the continuation and aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis there is a pronounced need for The Salvation Army to mobilise to prevent an increase in trafficking and support victims of trafficking who are faced with a loss of income, exposure to the virus, and decreased access to social services

Fight for freedom

Furthermore, emergency accommodation and long-term victim assistance and reintegration will be needed as victims of trafficking are unable to work and find an opportunity to escape or are released by their traffickers.

Trafficking routes are likely to be impacted by the decrease in regular transportation avenues across the EU and internationally, as traditional routes such as commercial flights and freight are instrumental to traffickers' success. As the world eventually returns to a new normal, better victim identification in the transportation sector and increased research into trafficking routes is needed to stem the rise of cross-border trafficking in Europe.

Children who are unable to attend school during the pandemic are more at risk than ever to online abuse and trafficking. The Salvation Army services that have continued their work with children by pivoting to online services and have continued to check in with their families have the ability to inform the family about the dangers of online predators and to monitor the well-being of at-risk children. Finally, the distribution of food and other essential services through The Salvation Army foodbanks and social services is more important than ever, as individuals vulnerable to traffickers are those living in poverty and unable to meet basic needs.

European funding made available to respond to the COVID-19 crisis can also be used for projects to prevent trafficking and assist victims of trafficking. It is urgent that The Salvation Army utilises these funding streams to assist victims of trafficking and those at risk of trafficking throughout Europe. A decrease in individual donations and funding opportunities as a result of COVID-19 will likely also have a knock-on effect on the services available for trafficking victims and vulnerable groups in the near future for The Salvation Army and other charitable institutions.

The Salvation Army in the UK, which is contracted by the government to provide services to human trafficking victims, reported that referrals initially decreased due to lockdown and less movement of people in general. Many victims chose to self-isolate out of fear and to protect themselves. However, referrals have now (as of July 2020) picked up again and are nearly back to pre-COVID levels. Other European countries report similar trends in referrals and report that many trafficking victims including sex workers were unable to work and faced hardships during the height of the crisis. Country-specific information on the effect of COVID-19 on trafficking victims and service delivery can be found in the country reports.

The picture of human trafficking globally

- At any given time in 2016, an estimated 40.3 million people were in modern slavery, including 24.9 million in forced labour and 15.4 million in forced marriage. This means there are 5.4 victims of modern slavery for every 1,000 people in the world.
- 1 in 4 victims of modern slavery is a child.
- Out of the 24.9 million people trapped in forced labour, 16 million people are exploited in the private sector such as domestic work, construction or agriculture; 4.8 million persons in forced sexual exploitation; and 4 million persons in forced labour imposed by state authorities.
- Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labour, accounting for 99 per cent of victims in the commercial sex industry and 58 per cent in other sectors.

Source, ILO, Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, Geneva, September 2017

Data is an important tool to help ensure accountability of actions taken to address trafficking in human beings. And while there is growing recognition and awareness of the scale of the problem of human trafficking, there are still many 'dark numbers' and reliable data missing. Despite a lack of access to reliable data, it has been well established that trafficking is a growing trend that thrives especially in situations of upheaval, poverty and vulnerability; for example, the migration crisis and the new COVID-19 crisis.

The European Commission report also points out that there are many challenges that remain to be addressed in gathering reliable data, such as different definitions being used, a wide range of actors collecting data, different methods for identification of victims, the complexity of the crime itself and the fact that many traffickers are convicted for other forms of crime rather than trafficking in human beings.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by global leaders at a UN summit in September 2015, specifically mention human trafficking in the targets of three goals – 5, 8 and 16 – condemning respectively 'all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation' (5.2); 'forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking' and calling for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and for an end child labour in all its forms by 2025 (8.7). In addition, target 16.2 calls for the nations to 'end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children'.



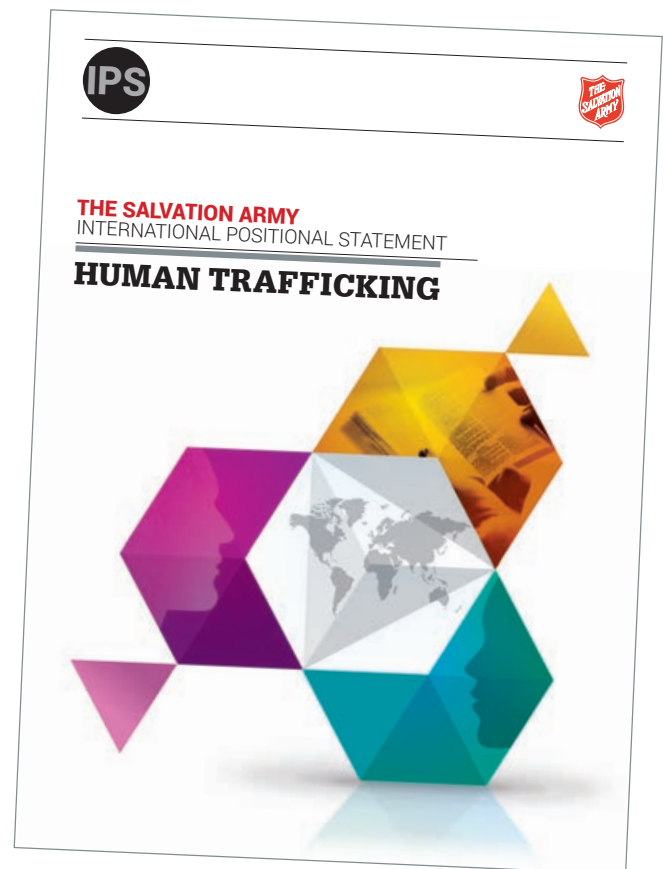
HOW AND WHY THE SALVATION ARMY WORKS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Why The Salvation Army works on anti-human trafficking

The Salvation Army is deeply committed to fighting human trafficking in all its forms. It seeks to exercise care in restoring the freedom and dignity of those affected. Human trafficking is contrary to the principles of freedom and dignity. The trafficking of human beings is a crime that is widespread due to the exploitation of vulnerability in every corner of the globe. As The Salvation Army works to ensure that the dignity of those most disregarded in society is protected, it has become clear that the work of anti-trafficking is rooted in anti-poverty and anti-discriminatory work that the Army has worked towards for many years. The profile of trafficking victims shows that women, children, LGBTQ, people living in poverty, people of colour and ethnic minorities including Roma are disproportionately represented among trafficking victims of all kinds. It is therefore paramount that anti-trafficking work includes prevention at this level, and that advocacy for anti-human trafficking includes policies that work for the equality and empowerment of these groups.

Basing its views on the Bible, The Salvation Army believes that humankind is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26). Therefore, all people are valuable to God and hold a special place in God's creation (Psalm 8:5). The Bible teaches that nobody should be exploited or mistreated. Joel 3:3 condemns the evil of buying, selling and exploiting the vulnerable and prophesying that the nations will be judged for what they have done, lamenting that they '... cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine to drink.'

Jesus taught that no one should live in physical or spiritual bondage. He said, 'The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners, to give sight to the blind, to free everyone who suffers, and to say, "This is the year the Lord has chosen"' (Luke 4:18-19 *Contemporary English Version*). Jesus was referencing Isaiah 61:1-2. The Salvation Army works to uphold the dignity of all of humanity, following in the call of the ancient prophets to 'let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' (Amos 5:24 *English Standard Version*).



See The Salvation Army's international website for its International Positional Statement on Human Trafficking
www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/positionalstatements

The Salvation Army European Affairs Office

Based in Brussels, the European Affairs Office represents the international Salvation Army's Europe Zone as part of the worldwide Salvation Army. The goal of the EU Affairs Office is to provide an EU-level platform for The Salvation Army to relate to the EU and to enable the Army to engage in advocacy, representing the organisation as well as the people it serves.

The Salvation Army European Affairs Office carries out advocacy and awareness-raising activities, targeting mainly the European institutions but also other civil society organisations and individuals of the general public. It aims to identify pan-European challenges and to bring a cohesive response to those challenges. It also brings its expertise to the table in relevant areas of EU affairs among the European institutions and other civil society organisations and aims to highlight The Salvation Army's grassroots work done across Europe to decision makers in Brussels.

The European Affairs Office supports mutual learning among its European counterparts through the sharing of learning resources and expertise, as well as the exchange of knowledge and information on relevant EU policy developments, events and funding opportunities. The issue of human trafficking is one of its priority policy areas, so the European Affairs Office sits on the European AHT Council and uses this position to bring the priorities and learning from the Council to the EU level.

The European Affairs Office has an EU-AHT advocacy strategy of eight overarching goals:

1. Have The Salvation Army recognised as a key player in AHT in Europe;
2. Monitor the situation across Europe and inform EU decision makers and the wider public;
3. Influence the EU AHT strategy (post-2016);
4. Raise awareness about issues of human trafficking among EU decision makers;
5. Provide examples of good practice to EU decision makers, NGOs and academia;
6. Seek out sources of EU funding for The Salvation Army's work in AHT;
7. Develop and communicate specific EU-level policy recommendations;
8. Help support the development of our own internal expertise in AHT (capacity building and information).

European Anti-Human Trafficking Council

In 2013 The Salvation Army formed a European AHT Network of NCPs to respond to the problem through a united and coordinated approach that works across borders and boundaries.

The European AHT Task Force of The Salvation Army in Europe was established in 2013 in Budapest with the commissioning of NCPs in countries across Europe. The European leaders of The Salvation Army Social Services, represented in the European Network of Social Services (ENSS), initiated the AHT Task Force to combat human trafficking.

Over the past years the work of the European AHT network has developed to such an extent that it is no longer guided by the (project-based) AHT Task Force, but by a European AHT Council. The Council has a more permanent status and representation in the IMSHTR Council of the Salvation Army worldwide. The International Council exists to ensure the development of a strong and sustainable MSHT response in every territory, command and region embedded within The Salvation Army structures. The embedding of the European AHT Council within the International Council opens new opportunities for transnational cooperation between countries in Europe and countries in other continents to effectively address the needs of victims coming from Africa (like Nigeria), Asia and (Latin) America and who are exploited in Europe.

Fight for Freedom

International AHT Task Force and International Social Justice Commission

Since July 2015 The Salvation Army has had an International AHT Task Force with the purpose of promoting, encouraging, supporting and coordinating an AHT response within The Salvation Army around the world. A representative of the European AHT Task Force also has a permanent seat on this International Task Force to ensure a link between the work of the European network and the global work of the Army. It aims to:

- Be a resource for information about human trafficking and anti-human trafficking responses around the world, both by The Salvation Army and other organisations;
- Develop guidelines and minimum standards for AHT work within The Salvation Army internationally;
- Encourage communication and sharing of best practice and lessons learnt between communities of practice, both within and between Salvation Army territories;
- Facilitate the coordination of AHT responses between territories where appropriate;
- Provide resources that educate and support The Salvation Army in an AHT response (including posters, information leaflets, Bible studies, prayer resources and the website);
- Develop partnerships with other organisations involved in AHT work at an international level.

The International Social Justice Commission has recently launched *Fight for Freedom*, The Salvation Army International Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Response Strategy. This new strategy aims to coordinate the work worldwide of The Salvation Army to fight human trafficking.

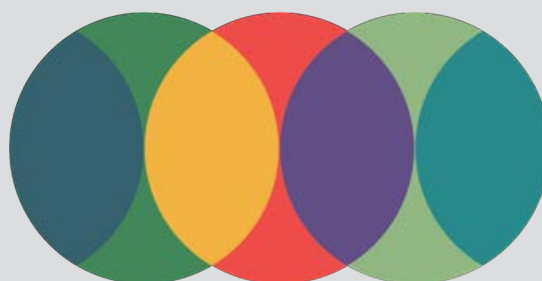


“

The Fight for Freedom International Strategy is our holistic roadmap as we mobilise and work towards a world filled with Jesus, justice and freedom ... everyone has a role to play.

”

FIGHT FOR FREEDOM



Fight for Freedom Launch

It is my joy to announce the official launch of the Fight for Freedom, The Salvation Army International Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) Response Strategy.

The Salvation Army has been on the frontlines fighting courageously for social justice since its start. Responding to modern slavery and human trafficking is part of our DNA. Today, all around the world, The Salvation Army has beautiful expressions of transformation and effective responses to trafficking across zones, territories and communities.

We hope our international strategy builds on and strengthens our current responses and further mobilises new response expressions across the globe.

The Fight for Freedom International Strategy is our holistic roadmap as we mobilise and work towards a world filled with Jesus, justice and freedom. This strategy marks the first time we have a coordinated, global plan to respond to MSHT. Everyone has a role to play.

The Fight for Freedom strategy seeks to create, implement and ensure a strong and sustainable MSHT response in every Salvation Army territory, command, region and community, to strengthen its response around the eight identified actions areas: Prayer, Prevention, Protection, Partnerships, Participation, Policy, Prosecution and Proof. The international strategy calls for a strong emphasis on community- and grassroots-led responses and informed by those we intend to reach and serve – those on the margins and those exploited.

Thank you for being a part of this movement. I could not be more grateful to fight and serve alongside Europe.

Working towards a just world.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT

www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/SAfightforfreedom

PRISCILLA SANTOS, MA

International Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Response Coordinator
International Social Justice Commission, The Salvation Army

Annual Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking

A Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking is held every year on the last Sunday of September. On this appointed day Salvation Army centres and churches across the world hold awareness-raising activities and offer prayers for the victims of trafficking, providing an opportunity for local church communities to gather and reflect on human trafficking, learning how they can directly help to eradicate it. The Salvation Army in many countries has used this day to raise awareness amongst corps (churches), social projects and the broader community.

To find resources for the Day of Prayer, please visit:
www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/IADPrayer

Pan-European Campaign: Cheap prices come at a high cost

In 2019, the AHT Council launched the Pan-European awareness-raising campaign entitled 'Cheap prices come at a high cost'. The campaign focused on how the cheap goods we consume are often produced in exploitative circumstances and also sought to raise awareness about trafficking in common industries, such as nail bars, massage parlours, construction and brothels.

The campaign was envisaged to be adapted to unique national contexts, thereby offering The Salvation Army in different countries the opportunity to tailor the campaign to the needs of their communities. In the following country reports the NCPs report on how the campaign was implemented within their countries.

To support other participating countries, The Salvation Army in The Netherlands will host a webinar this autumn for both the NCPs and the communication professionals involved, on how to start a petition in their own context,

to give their campaign a boost and to address the theme as concretely as possible to their government.

In the meantime, three new advertisements with accompanying victim images have been produced for all European participating countries. This concerns an advertisement for work as a cleaner in hotels, work in the kitchen of restaurants and as a factory worker. For the victim images, in consultation with the participating countries, an Asian young man was chosen as a dishwasher, an Eastern European young woman as a hotel worker and a north African young man as a victim in a factory. With this addition to the current range of advertisements, the organisers of the campaign hope to have covered the entire types of exploitation areas in Europe.

Below (left to right): Pan-European Campaign posters from Ukraine, Norway and Georgia



[illegible]

VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING





*Fight
for
Freedom*

In this mapping report, three examples of promising projects targeting sex trafficking are presented. These projects are relatively new and present the potential for adoption in other European countries. Together, these initiatives collectively address three crucial areas within the field of anti-human trafficking including prevention, victim aftercare, and victim outreach and empowerment. As The Salvation Army's work in assisting victims of sex trafficking continues to grow, the ability for shared learning and implementation of similar projects throughout Europe is invaluable and can also open the doors for European funding, such as the funding received for the Safe Havens project.

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

FOCUS ON SEX TRAFFICKING

RÁHÁB Outreach and Shelter in Hungary

Written by Edina Toth from The Salvation Army in Hungary

The Ráháb street outreach ministry started in Hungary in 2017. As outreach workers grew closer to the victims and got to know their life stories and situation, by 2018 it became clear that they needed to be more frequently present in the street among the women working there.

During the street ministry among the victims of human trafficking, outreach workers were able to listen to the individual stories of the women. It became apparent how important and necessary it was for The Salvation Army to create and develop a safe shelter for these girls and women who were seeking a way out, or for those who had come home from situations of exploitation abroad and wanted to start a new life. By the end of 2018, the infrastructure for the safe shelter was ready.

In the spring of 2019, The Salvation Army in Hungary opened the Ráháb safe shelter. It consists of two guest rooms with two bathrooms and a kitchen and can accommodate 2+1 girls. The goal of the Ráháb safe shelter is to create space for the development of a 'new life' by ensuring a welcoming environment and supporting background where victims can open up and receive help. The process involves re-evaluating her way of thinking, starting to fight for a better life using her own hidden resources, finding encouragement in relationships and gaining hope for the future.

How the shelter operates

At present two services are offered in the shelter:

1. The accommodation part of the Ráháb shelter offers full care to women who have already left prostitution. The programme also offers material assistance for education or for the continuation of their studies. In addition, rehabilitation is achieved through a daytime rehab programme at an external location belonging to a different organisation.
2. The Ráháb reflection room can accommodate two women. These places are available for:
 - Those who still work in prostitution but would like to quit. This temporary accommodation allows them the space and time to think over and re-evaluate their lives and take a responsible decision. Through counselling and emotional support, the team helps them to formulate their own needs, hopes, wishes and future plans.
 - Women who come home from abroad and still need time to consider their options and are looking for a way out of exploitative situations.
 - Women who need to have a withdrawal treatment due to their addiction – the team helps them become aware of the problem and make the decision to move towards recovery.



“

It is crucial that services that come into contact with survivors of trafficking, particularly victim-centred services such as those run by The Salvation Army in many countries, are equipped to work with highly traumatised individuals with an understanding of how to best assist and develop trusting relationships with them.

”

Challenges

One of the challenges is that at present there is no governmental support for services like Ráháb. The Switzerland, Austria and Hungary Territory of The Salvation Army is currently bearing the costs of the Ráháb programme, but it is imperative for the Hungarian government to establish investment into victim protection.

Before opening the safe shelter, the Army prepared an established admission order. However, experience has shown that each woman is an individual case and must cope with her individual wounds. It is not possible to simply follow an established protocol because admission conditions need to be tailored to the individual person.

During the individual-centred care work done at the shelter, it is the client who best understands her own life experiences and thus it is her responsibility to work through her trauma and find a new way forward. The task of the helper is to accompany the client and join her in the journey of finding her own inner wisdom and regaining control over her life.

Successes

A lot of preconceptions are re-evaluated and gain new clarity in the work of anti-trafficking. Thus, the concept of success has acquired a new meaning for the Ráháb team. Every fought-for day in the life of the survivors is, in itself, a success and a miracle. The work of recovery is long and difficult, and it is important to celebrate the many steps along the way.

SURVIVOR STORY

In January 2020, a young girl made contact with the Ráháb team. She had become a victim of human trafficking during her years in a children's home. She spent two months in our shelter, but unfortunately she returned to drugs and prostitution. The team continued to seek her out and offer assistance, and after a struggle of six months and several difficult attempts to break free from drugs, she is at present in a rehab programme and has been clean for six weeks.

She shared about her experience over the last few months, 'I come here to The Salvation Army because they always help me. I just don't understand why. I never received so much love, and for me it is difficult to accept it. I do not deserve it.'

Trauma Course for Staff and Practitioners

The team at the Ráháb shelter are trained in trauma-informed care and through the course participants are able to comprehend the effect traumatisation can have on the functioning of the nervous system, on behaviour, on relationships and on communication, all based on the latest scientific research and observations.

This is a perspective that helps practitioners come closer to their clients and better understand their reactions, which are sometimes difficult to understand, and to plan support more efficiently. The target of the trauma-informed course is not the treatment of trauma-related symptoms, but the planning and implementing of various services in a way that makes them accessible to and adequate for individuals who have a trauma history.

During the course staff learn about the following topics:

- What is trauma from a psychological perspective?
- Stress, stressors, stress response
- How are trauma and stress related?
- Possible consequences of psychological trauma
- Characteristics of PTSD and healing possibilities
- Developmental trauma and attachment
- Transgenerational trauma
- Resiliency
- Trauma-informed perspective
- Foundations and possibilities of trauma-informed care
- Emotional regulation

The emphasis on trauma-informed care at the Ráháb shelter in Hungary provides an excellent example for The Salvation Army in Europe and beyond for services that provide holistic support for trafficking survivors grounded in trauma-informed practice. Survivors of human trafficking have often lived extremely traumatic and chaotic lives, marked by poverty, abuse, distrust of authorities and an inability to create healthy relationships. It is crucial that services that come into contact with survivors of trafficking, particularly victim-centred services such as those run by The Salvation Army in many countries, are equipped to work with highly traumatised individuals with an understanding of how to best assist and develop trusting relationships with them. As a psychological and theological understanding of trauma is further developed within the field of anti-trafficking, The Salvation Army has the ability to be on the frontlines of providing trauma-informed care that meets the unique needs of human trafficking victims and provides them with the best possible chances for the future. Projects like Ráháb prove that services need to be tailored to individual needs while also meeting the holistic psychological, spiritual and material needs of those who have experienced exploitation.



Respekt Thai Project in Sweden

Written by Emma Cotterill from The Salvation Army in Sweden

During the last few years Thai massage salons have sprung up at an increasing rate across Sweden, hosted by women who work alone, running their own businesses or by individuals employing a number of staff. In recent years the police have identified this group of women as among those vulnerable to exploitation and human trafficking, as set out in their annual reports.

In Helsingborg on the south-west coast of Sweden, a community-based initiative to combat human trafficking on a local level started in 2015. The Salvation Army leads stakeholders from the NGO and business communities as well as the local authority and police working to strategically prevent and combat human trafficking and prostitution. Through this work the vulnerability of the Thai community working in the massage industry in the city has been highlighted.

In 2019, the team at Helsingborg Salvation Army set out to start outreach work to develop relationships with the Thai community in the massage salons, gather information about the needs among these women as well as find out whether there would be interest in collaborating with The Salvation Army in order to do something about the situation at hand.

The team spent three months visiting 40 Thai massage salons in Helsingborg; listening, learning, building relationships, eating spicy noodles, drinking tea and developing thinking around a possible project directed at this target group. They soon discovered that the vulnerability to different forms of exploitation, particularly sexual exploitation, was widespread. There was also extreme isolation and frustration over the demand for sexual services, and an apparent risk of falling victim to other types of crime such as sexual harassment or threats and robbery which often went unreported, as confidence in the justice system or understanding of how to report such crimes was low.

The project secured state funding for a one-year project to engage and empower women in the Thai massage community to explore ways of improving their industry to prevent vulnerability and exploitation, connecting outreach with group-based activities designed to enable the women to connect with each other and relevant actors in the



'They soon discovered that the vulnerability to different forms of exploitation, particularly sexual exploitation, was widespread. There was also extreme isolation and frustration over the demand for sexual services, and an apparent risk of falling victim to other types of crime such as sexual harassment or threats and robbery'

community, and allowing them to talk about common issues and find solutions to some of their shared problems.

The forum RESPEKT Thai (Respect Thai) embraces anyone working with Thai massage in and around the city and is founded on the women's desire to achieve respect for their art, their person and their nationality. The group has been gathering regularly with the mission to raise up women who provide for themselves and their families in a business that seeks to help people heal from pain and stress, whilst recognising the industry is also a host to exploitation, something which the group desires to address together. The women have amongst other things developed a quality standard for customers to feel safe about the kind of establishment they are visiting and are marketing it through a website as well as custom-made vouchers and leaflets.

Building on the learning and relationships that have developed over the course of the year, in its second year RESPEKT Thai will seek to equip participants to lead themselves as well as others as they explore how to improve their own business as well as create a movement of women that hope to end sexual exploitation in the Thai massage industry.

For more information visit www.respektthai.com



Opposite page: some of the women who have benefited from the Respekt Thai Project

Addressing the Demand for Sex Trafficking with the Barbershop Toolbox

Written by Mike Stannett, project implemented by The Salvation Army in Russia

Human trafficking is deeply related to cultural attitudes of the strong exploiting the weak and to men's attitudes towards women and children.

There is a duality in men's attitudes towards women and girls. Men will often idolise their sisters, mothers, grandmothers and their own children, but are happy to exploit someone else's sister, mother, grandmother or children.

In regard to the sex industry, women and children are being exploited to satisfy men's base desires. It is deeply rooted in chauvinistic, misogynistic and stereotypical attitudes often learnt at home, then reinforced by society.

If the pervasive human trafficking and mistreatment of women within the sex industry is to be seriously tackled, then we have to reduce the demand that feeds it at its source.

We must look at how we perceive the roles and expectations of the sexes and adjust our attitudes and therefore start to reduce the exploitation of the weaker person by the stronger person by educating men and boys to change their attitude towards women and girls.

The Barbershop Toolbox is a resource to help start dialogue between men and boys about their attitudes towards women and girls. The toolbox is a resource that provides an opportunity to discuss in a male environment not only what their thinking is about women but also what they think about men and masculinity. The toolbox can also be used in a mixed environment.

The Barbershop Toolbox was produced as a joint initiative between the governments of Iceland and Surinam as a way to get men involved and committed as partners in promoting gender equality. The first Barbershop conference was held at the UN headquarters in New York in January 2015.

The Salvation Army and Barbershop Toolbox

The Church has not always been the best model for the promotion of gender equality. Therefore, it is only right that the Church and The Salvation Army should also start this conversation in their congregations.

The Barbershop toolbox is a secular resource, but it can easily be adapted for use in church environments by adding Bible study materials.

The Salvation Army first used the toolbox in Russia at a Christian men's camp and used the resource with added Bible study materials to form the foundation of the discussions about their attitudes towards women and girls.

Below are the links for the Barbershop web page as well as for the Church-based discussion guides on the European Affairs website:

www.heforshe.org/en/barbershop

www.salvationarmy.org/eaaffairs/resources

THE EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK

The EU

The legal and policy framework to address human trafficking at EU level was established in 2011 by Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combatting the trafficking of human beings (THB) and protecting its victims. Then, in June 2012, the European Commission adopted a Communication on the EU Strategy Towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012–2016 to support the implementation of the EU Directive 2011/36 and to set up a harmonised approach in realising this.

Periodical reports of the European Parliament have monitored the advancement of this implementation and the state of trafficking in human beings in Europe.

An EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator was appointed by the Commission to provide strategic policy orientation, to ensure consistent and coordinated planning among the member states and third parties, as well as to monitor the implementation of the EU Strategy. The EU Strategy 2012–2016 identified five priorities:

1. Identifying, protecting and assisting victims of trafficking;
2. Stepping up the prevention of trafficking in human beings;
3. Increased prosecution of traffickers;
4. Enhanced coordination and cooperation among key actors and policy coherence;
5. Increased knowledge of and effective response to emerging concerns related to all forms of trafficking in human beings.

The European Commission presented its Second Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings in December 2018. The report outlined a number of priority areas for member states to focus on to effectively combat trafficking in human beings, including improved data collection, countering the culture of impunity, promoting a coordinated response and ensuring victims' access to justice.

One of the actions in this EU strategy is to develop, together with the member states, an EU-wide system for the collection and publication of data broken down according to age and gender. National Rapporteurs (or equivalent mechanisms) have been appointed and are responsible for monitoring the implementation of anti-trafficking policy at the national level and have a key

The European Affairs Office ... new approach will aim to modernise the legislative framework and respond to emerging concerns, such as the use of technology in trafficking and the COVID-19 crisis

role in data collection on trafficking in human beings at national and EU level. The tasks of such mechanisms include the carrying out of assessments of trends in trafficking in human beings and the measuring of results of anti-trafficking actions, including the gathering of statistics in close cooperation with relevant civil society organisations active in this field. Therefore, The Salvation Army (as part of civil society) is eligible to be consulted as part of this monitoring mechanism.

During the past seven years, the office of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator has intensified its cooperation with civil society organisations engaged in the fight against trafficking, establishing the EU Civil Society Platform Against Trafficking in Human Beings (THB), which gathers twice per year, bringing together 100 European NGOs and organisations operating in this sector. A wider number of organisations take part in an online platform, where civil society organisations are consulted to comment on policy initiatives and send direct inputs concerning the implementation of the directive. Since 2017, the European Affairs Office of The Salvation Army represents all of the European territories in this platform, attending its events.

In this time, the European Affairs Office has responded to consultations on the implementation of the 2011 directive on preventing and combatting the trafficking of human beings (THB) and protecting its victims and in a collection of opinions for victims' compensation.

Most recently, the European Affairs Office has responded to a consultation on the new strategic approach towards the eradication of THB. The new approach will aim to modernise the legislative framework and respond to emerging concerns, such as the use of technology in trafficking and the COVID-19 crisis.



The Council of Europe

In 2005, the Council of Europe adopted the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ECAT), which entered into force on 1 February 2008. Today, all of the 47 member countries of the Council of Europe have ratified the Convention. ECAT's main focus is its human rights perspective and focus on victim protection, which goes beyond the minimum standards agreed in other existing international instruments. Due to its comprehensiveness, The Salvation Army finds it to be in line with its mission to fight for human dignity.

The main added value of the Convention is its human rights perspective and focus on victim protection. While building on existing international instruments, the Convention strengthens the protection afforded to victims. Another added value of the Convention is the monitoring system set up to supervise the implementation of the obligations contained in it, which consists of two pillars: the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking

in Human Beings (GRETA), which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention; and the Committee of the Parties. Furthermore, the Convention is not restricted to Council of Europe member states: non-member states and the EU also have the possibility of becoming party to the Convention. Therefore, although less enforceable, its reach goes further than the EU Directive.

GRETA, which meets in plenary sessions three times a year, carries out visits and draws up and publishes country reports evaluating legislative and other measures taken by parties to give effect to the provisions of the Convention.

The Convention of the Council of Europe also states that governments must cooperate with civil society. The Salvation Army should be taking advantage of this opportunity for consultation, contacting the responsible ministry to ask to be invited to GRETA meetings. GRETA reports and recommendations, like the ones from the European Commission, are powerful instruments for Salvation Army territories involved in the fight against THB, as these can help The Salvation Army identify whether gaps exist in the national context, allowing it to seek to fill such gaps where capacity allows.

KEY CHALLENGES

The following key challenges have been drawn from the answers from The Salvation Army's mapping questionnaire and have been highlighted by several countries, if not all. They concern external as well as internal (Salvation Army) challenges in their work fighting human trafficking.

1. LACK OF RESOURCES

Financial and human. Although contact persons have been appointed in most countries, in some cases The Salvation Army does not necessarily have the financial or human resources to do more than very low-key AHT activities and staff may have the role of NCP among many other roles and responsibilities. In a number of countries, the government is not allocating sufficient resources for this work (e.g. Latvia) and is leaving it up to NGOs. In some cases, funds allocated to this area of work are insufficient and given to only a few organisations which then 'monopolise' the help given (e.g. Poland).

2. LACK OF AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE

According to the responses of our mapping questionnaire, one of the major challenges in this work is a lack of awareness among the general public that trafficking exists and what it looks like. People (both highly educated as well as low skilled) are unaware of the risks and do not believe it could happen to them. Also, within The Salvation Army there is a need for more awareness raising and training for staff, church leaders and volunteers to recognise potential victims of trafficking and how to respond. A lack of data on real numbers of people who are victims of trafficking is also problematic. The Salvation Army's social services also does not necessarily record numbers of people who have been/are being exploited when they receive them in their institutions, and therefore communicating the scale of the problem is not always easy.

3. POVERTY AND LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES

Lack of employment opportunities and poor education are cited as major challenges in a number of countries – made worse by the financial crisis and consequent austerity measures. Victims are lured away from their country by false offers of employment. In such cases there is a feeling that the choice of a parent to leave the country in order to send money back is a personal decision, and that even if he or she is under-employed, perhaps it is a 'noble sacrifice' for the family (Moldova).

4. COVID-19 INCREASING VULNERABILITY AND LOWERING NUMBER OF REFERRALS

Many countries have reported a decrease in referrals and requests for assistance from victims of trafficking. Furthermore, the economic consequences of extended lockdowns pose risk for an increase in trafficking as vulnerable groups become more susceptible to the lure of traffickers. NGOs and social services that often offer a safety net to vulnerable groups and trafficking victims have in some cases limited their services and transitioned to virtual meetings, leading to potential neglect and isolation of trafficking victims and others, such as children, refugees and the elderly.

5. NOT A GOVERNMENT PRIORITY, INEFFICIENT LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND SYSTEMATIC FAILURES

Difficult national legal frameworks were cited as being problematic in several countries (see examples below) – for instance there may be a lack of victim status or this may be conditional on perpetrators being sentenced in court, or only provided if the victim cooperates with the police. In Norway victims are only verified as official victims of trafficking if the traffickers are sentenced in court. In Hungary children are handled as perpetrators and criminals

rather than victims who are unable to consent. In Moldova victims are reluctant to self-identify due to little recourse and protection, few convictions and because they are registered as 'victims-marked-for-life-in-the-system'. Lack of protocol or coordination is also problematic in several countries. For example, in some countries there is poor organisation in dealing with victims of trafficking and roles and responsibilities are unclear (e.g. better coordination of the care for victims is needed in Norway). Poor victim support services are also identified such as in Moldova and in Switzerland, where the lack of resources in specialised police forces and liberal laws concerning sexual services are a major concern. On a European level, the lack of legal routes to Europe often pushes people coming from situations of poverty or conflict to turn to traffickers to reach their destination country. Long waiting times and heavy bureaucratic procedures leave asylum seekers particularly vulnerable to traffickers. Furthermore, many refugees placed in centres/shelters suddenly disappear, being transferred to other member states by their traffickers. A number of refugees are victims of human trafficking and come to the EU trying to find safety and peace. Being a victim of human trafficking is not grounds for asylum in a number of member states in the EU (including Sweden, for example) so according to the Dublin regulation they are sent back to the first EU country of arrival, although women are often escaping traffickers in those countries and the risk of re-trafficking is obvious.

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

Roma and Trafficking

This story is adapted from a Salvation Army article that can be found at www.strijdkreet.nl/artikel/ik-weet-hoe-je-zaadjjes-kunt-planten by Wilfred Hermans

'It is actually a shame that crime and prejudices colour the image of the Roma so negatively. The picture is correct, but it is not complete. I am proud of the Roma culture, the music, how we manage to survive, how resourceful we are. But if Roma want to be helped, their mistakes really need to be discussed. I do, and I am not always thanked for that. But I know what's going on, I know how to plant seeds. That wouldn't work if I started working with the police. Then I disappear in a trunk, in a forest, or I get shot. Nobody is helped with that.'

These are the words of Milutin Pavlovic (pictured opposite), currently one of the few Roma who actively bridges the gap between the Roma community and benevolent aid workers. The fact that he is almost the only one does not discourage him. 'Someone has to start it,' he says.

Houses, Rolexes, cars

'My mother sent me on a raid. Obligated me to do so, while I actually wanted to go to school. As a child I already had a lot of money, sometimes I earned more than twenty thousand a day. Later I lived in several countries in Europe and owned houses, cars, Rolexes, women – everything. But I got older and started to see that there was more to life. In 2006 I started to think and decided to write my life story, in prison. Who am I, where am I from? I knew I was born on the side of the highway and left very young by my parents. I grew up in children's homes. I didn't know my father. He killed my mother's brother. Still, it affected me a lot when he passed away in 2015, after all, you only have one father, right?'

That period was the turning point, an emotional rollercoaster after which 'Milo', as he calls himself, decided: he didn't want to get old in prison, and he quit crime. 'I stopped my benefits and started at zero. Now I want to choose the right way. Not to make things right, but I want to build a better future. I don't have any diplomas or work experience, but I am articulate and powerful enough to build my life and help others.'

I focus on Roma who do want to be helped, and on children who have the right to education, I want to give them a positive example.

Human trafficking

'Human trafficking is commonplace among the Roma, certainly with the subgroup, the so-called General Pardon Group 1977-78, where I come from. Children are used as a pension facility, hence the large families. For the boys there must be enough money to buy brides, in some Roma groups girls are even sold and end up in prostitution. That has to stop.'

Milo recognises that Roma are discriminated against, but they must also recognise their own communal failings. 'Many Roma are themselves the greatest racists. For example, Roma form a closed community, and outsiders are called "gadje".' The reason some Roma are closed off? They don't want to reveal that their lives largely consist of lying, stealing, exploitation and human trafficking. 'The Roma lack an exemplary figure,' says Milo. He wants to be such a person, and he is. 'Roma keep getting the wrong questions, while I know how they think and how the rest of society thinks. I focus on Roma who do want to be helped, and on children who have the right to education, I want to give them a positive example.'

Milo's Method

Milo first helped Roma families who wanted assistance on his own initiative, and his work gradually started to be noticed. For example, he came into contact with social services, including The Salvation Army, which sends him to young people in closed institutions and foster families with Roma children.

Right: Milutin Pavlovic – one of the few Roma who actively bridges the gap between the Roma community and benevolent aid workers

What is Milo's method? 'To reach the minor generation, you have to go through the old generation. I start with information. I visit them and start a social chat. How are you? Then you hear: no money, no work, there is always something wrong. But if you know how to ask the right questions, information will automatically come up that you can elaborate on. For example, I ask: what do you want? How do you imagine it? What do you expect from the outside world if they give you a home, benefits and care allowance? Or they beg you to take your kids to school, but you are going to steal? I confront them with their behaviour. "Are you going to pay my attorney's fees while I'm in jail? Oh no?!" Some then get angry and argue fiercely. For example, a father says: "I want to start a car company, but I can't, the Dutch are racists!" Then I say: How would you like to start a car company if you don't even know how to fill out tax forms? In fact, you can't even write! You know what: we bring in someone who will teach you that. And when they say: "Yes, but how should that be?", openness arises, and you get somewhere.'

Coercion policy

Milo mentions the main barriers in helping the Roma community. 'Roma children are often thought of at school and by social workers as mildly mentally disabled, based on the idea that they don't go to school and don't keep up with the others. But if you don't know their backgrounds, you shouldn't make such a judgement. Another bottleneck is municipal policy; that is usually coercive policy. Because authorities have no access to the Roma, coercive measures are taken. In the context of compulsory education, they then hand out yellow, red or purple cards. But you don't help any family, let alone a child, with that.'

Peace

Milo cannot claim great successes yet – he has only been working for two years. He has tried to get someone from the Roma community into a job, and he has brought another one into his network. He maintains daily contact with different Roma, men and women, young and old. But Milo currently sees the fact that the cooperation with the social services has finally come about after years of being the greatest success. He can sketch hopeful situations. 'Foster families often do not know how to deal with Roma children, they do not know the backgrounds; I am sometimes brought in as Roma, to explain a bit

of background and ensure, for example, that the social workers come into contact with the biological parents. This keeps the peace both in the foster family and with the children. That's what I do it for.'

Survivor Story from Romania

This story was shared by a Romanian woman who received assistance from The Salvation Army in Romania.

'My name is P.M., and I am 35 years old, I would like to share my adventures that took place in 2019. Back then, I was looking for a job because my husband was ill and there was no other option than for me to start working.

'I tried my luck in Iasi, I submitted my résumé in multiple places, but I got no response. During that month, I reconnected with a former classmate on Facebook. I learned about what she was doing where she lived. She said she was in the UK; she was well paid, and her employer was always seeking more employees. Thank God, I and some female colleagues went to the UK. We got there and we met with the person who guided us to our new workplace. We submitted our résumés and in less than three days we were told that we all got the job. We found out we were going to work the night shift, from 22:00 to 07:00.

'One female colleague suspected something fishy because, all of a sudden, the person who invited us there asked us to pay her for mediation services. We alerted the legal authorities, and the police came for us at the workplace and picked us up. After testifying to the police, they checked us into a hotel. The next day, under police protection, we went to The Salvation Army. We were offered protection, accommodation and an English course. A few months later, I asked to go back to my family in Romania. The Salvation Army in the UK paid for my return ticket. Arriving back home to my family and feeling safe, I looked for The Salvation Army in Iasi. Going there with some girlfriends, I have finally found a decent workplace not far away from my family.'



COUNTRY REPORTS

With the fight against THB at the core of The Salvation Army's activities, it has developed in Europe a Council which meets twice a year, comprised of members from different countries with special knowledge of the topic. In addition, almost every country in the Europe Zone where The Salvation Army is present has an appointed NCP for AHT, with the aim of reporting and leading local strategy. Due to differences in capacity among EU territories, commands and regions of The Salvation Army, not all countries have specific AHT services or activities. Some territories may be engaged at a preliminary level in internal awareness-raising, while others hold several very developed projects which aim, through an increasingly holistic approach, to prevent trafficking, assisting victims and guiding them towards inclusion in society.

Each country report tries to summarise:

- National set-up, actions and partnerships
- Project summaries (including where possible a website address for more information)
- Challenges and opportunities
- Recommendations to national governments

Although this mapping aims to display the work at EU decision-maker level, we hope that the recommendations to national governments found in this section of the report can also be taken into consideration.

BELGIUM

NCP: Major Ruth Stannett

Contact: rstannett@armeedusalut.be

National set-up, actions and partnerships

During the last two years, the Belgian Salvation Army's work with AHT has primarily involved continuing to work on raising awareness. Several corps officers (church and community centre leaders) have become more involved in awareness-raising activities through networking with other organisations, holding seminars in their towns and also inviting their own congregation, volunteers and other churches to be involved. In Liege, the corps officers have been part of the A21 'Walk for Freedom'. In Brussels, The Salvation Army has been invited by one of the International European Schools to address their senior students on the subject of human trafficking each academic year.

A training from PAG-ASA, the nationally mandated victim-reception centre, was planned to take place during spring 2020 for the social service directors, staff, corps officers and volunteers, but due to COVID-19 it was postponed until later in the year.

In 2019 the Pan-European Advertising Campaign highlighting human trafficking was launched in Belgium. The campaign is featured on the Armée du Salut website, which has recently been updated, and also the Facebook page.

There is good cooperation between several of The Salvation Army social institutions (Residential and Debt Counselling Service) and PAG-ASA, the main Belgian organisation dealing directly with the government and legal authorities on AHT. Several of the social services centres working with vulnerable people help to prevent trafficking and protect victims. For example, in the residential centre for children and youth in Brussels, part of the training received by social workers raises awareness of how to spot potential trafficking victims. They also partner with services such as SOS Children, which specialises in the support of abused children, arranging support groups with a focus on prevention, protection of the body and self-esteem. Two social centres in Belgium are equipped to provide emergency housing for trafficking victims and have provided this service in the past.

Fight for Freedom



Above: Training that raises awareness of how to spot potential trafficking victims, Belgium

Challenges and Opportunities

The Salvation Army in Belgium is challenged by a lack of funding and staff working on human trafficking, and thus has no projects directly focused on trafficking. However, the close relationship between The Salvation Army in Belgium and the EU Affairs Office (located in Brussels) has allowed for networking and advocacy opportunities on a national and EU level.

The opportunity for social centres working with the homeless, children in care and migrants to receive training on identifying potential victims of trafficking provides a first step towards integrating a knowledge of trafficking into pre-existing projects in Belgium.

CZECH REPUBLIC

NCP: Major Charity Kramerius

Contact: charity_kramerius@chz.salvationarmy.org

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army in the Czech Republic does not have any services focused specifically on AHT, however, they have increased networking with partner agencies participating in public-awareness raising activities and training on trafficking for both labour and sexual exploitation, as well as starting to educate staff and clients on the risks of trafficking. This increased awareness and training is directed to both social service and corps ministries.

The Salvation Army is in the beginning stages of developing and implementing a strategy on AHT. They have started to develop stronger ties with partner organisations, primarily Freedom Network CZ, with the intention of coordinating their work and communication with the public. The Czech Salvation Army and these partners have limited human and financial resources, so by working together they hope to achieve more. The strategy will be two-fold: public awareness (based upon the Pan European AHT Campaign and Plan 2020) as well as efforts to ensure safe programmes, and clients/corps members are trained to protect themselves and their communities from trafficking.

The Czech Salvation Army has regular contact/meetings with other organisations working on anti-trafficking, which have been established primarily through cooperation with Freedom Network CZ. This is a national ministry led by a representative from the Czech Evangelical Alliance, bringing together agencies on both local and national levels. They have been instrumental in providing the avenue for networking between agencies of all sizes and from both Christian perspectives and non

faith-based organisations, and have been helpful in organising volunteer recruitment, training, public awareness events and the distribution of materials and resources.

Projects

The pan-European Campaign has not yet been launched in the Czech Republic but should be ready to be released by the end of 2020. The first efforts will be limited to a social media campaign focused on sexual and labour exploitation. As there is no specific Salvation Army service to refer people to if victims are identified, The Salvation Army is planning to coordinate with partner agencies for basic printed materials and referral information.

The Salvation Army in the Czech Republic hopes in the future to provide emergency intervention for trafficking victims in the form of housing in their centres to assist partner agencies who are able to provide more permanent solutions.

Challenges and Opportunities

Human trafficking is still an out-of-sight, out-of-mind problem in Czech culture. For many reasons, people choose not to acknowledge the problem. This is partly due to the liberal laws regarding sex work. It is also because of the lack of desire to address labour trafficking on an equal level as sex trafficking. The Czech Republic is more of a transit central European country that serves as a trafficking route for persons being sent from eastern to western Europe, so it is easy to pretend that the problem does not exist. It is difficult to expose and address an invisible problem.

Two challenges the Czech Salvation Army faces are funding and training. Because it is a small command, there are very limited financial, material and personnel resources, but the Army is committed to doing what it can as part of the



pan-European effort. The Army plans to develop training for staff, social services clients and corps on how to protect themselves, be aware of the signs of trafficking, and ensure clients in all programmes are safe and informed.

Spotlight on COVID-19

The Salvation Army in the Czech Republic has highlighted, with information from their Freedom Network CZ partners, the following considerations in regard to the COVID-19 crisis.

There is concern about what is happening to victims of trafficking due to the disruption from coronavirus. Victims of trafficking may be experiencing mistreatment or being discarded by traffickers, as they are seen as a commodity that now is not producing revenue for their traffickers. Another issue is the increase in online services, such as webcam services, due to coronavirus which is worrying for victims of trafficking, particularly children who are exploited in this way.

Fight for freedom

DENMARK

NCP: No current NCP

Contact: den-leadership@den.salvationarmy.org

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army in Denmark and Greenland (*Frelsens Hær*) has extended its work and cooperation with Centre Mod Menneskehandel (CMM – The Danish Centre Against Human Trafficking) in the past two years. The Army follows the best practice agreed upon with this agency in its anti-trafficking work and it also has good cooperation with other agencies, including KFUF (a Christian women's NGO) and Reason International.

Projects

The Army provides emergency overnight beds in Copenhagen when needed, usually on a small scale. When the authorities run a big raid against human trafficking in the sex-industry or at large building projects with trafficked workers, The Salvation Army provides accommodation over a limited time for groups of up to 50 people. The centre manager at the hostel works closely with CMM.

The territory continues to train employees to handle the special needs of trafficked persons. This has greatly increased its capacity to respond to the special needs of the most vulnerable within the community. There has also been training conducted among youth workers and family

consultants that has increased their awareness of the issues and will allow the organisation to better respond in the future. The Army's strengths in youth and family work will probably be used in the future to continue to bring greater awareness to the issues through advocacy and educational campaigns. Child protection programmes also include awareness of human trafficking and youth workers are briefed on how to approach the topic.

The Salvation Army in Denmark participated in the pan-European AHT campaign and ran it on social media to create awareness of human trafficking in Danish society.

Challenges and Opportunities

The Salvation Army in Denmark has seen an increase in the number of people trafficked for labour exploitation.

The Salvation Army in Denmark has yet to decide to what extent it wants to engage in and prioritise the issue of human trafficking. The current anti-trafficking work is handled by the director of homeless institutions.



ESTONIA

NCP: Anneli Aavik

Contact: anneli.aavik@paastearmee.ee

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army in Estonia (Päästarmee) has recently begun to work out a strategy to address the issue of the trafficking of human beings, but has not yet developed a taskforce in the country (for this it refers to Finland). The preliminary work planned is to address awareness among members of The Salvation Army and the wider public through a few small campaigns, with a particular focus on the phenomenon of labour exploitation of Ukrainian citizens in Estonia. There are also plans to organise seminars on human trafficking in schools. Due to the very early stage of the commitment, there is no cooperation active with other NGOs.

The lack of resources, both in terms of financial means and human capacity, limits the action which can be done, but education and prevention represent an important contribution in this fight in Estonia, due to the lack of knowledge on human trafficking in the Baltic state.

Challenges and Opportunities

Estonia is a transit country, often reached by men who are promised lucrative jobs in the Nordic countries, but it is also a 'receiving' country to some extent. Vietnamese and Ukrainian people are the main population of workers finding themselves trafficked across Estonia. Due to the lack of information in the country on how human trafficking happens, many people are also potentially at risk of exploitation, both for labour and for other services.

Recommendations for National Government

The fight against human trafficking in Estonia is at a very early stage. National authorities must engage in raising awareness among Estonians and train the police and border control on the issue, in order to create conditions for opposing this phenomenon.

FINLAND

NCP: Captain Tuula Takala

Contact: tuula.takala@pelastusarmeija.fi

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army in Finland (*Pelastusarmeija*) has a territorial AHT Task Force that includes 15 members (from different sections of territorial headquarters and other working units, the NCP of Finland, the NCP of Estonia and the regional officer of Estonia). The Task Force meets two or three times a year. For two years there was a Finnish national 'sub group' of the task force that was working on different topics which have been achieved. The AHT task force is chaired by the territorial president of women's ministries. As of January 2020, the new Adult and Family Ministries officer is the vice-chair.

The focus of the anti-trafficking work in Finland is raising awareness and prevention by training and teaching adults/ parents and families, children and youth, staff, officers, volunteers and social workers to identify trafficking and refer victims to appropriate assistance.

This year the territorial leaders took part in the Finnish National Prayer Breakfast at the parliament. This gathering focuses on the church actions in Finland and in other parts of the world. This was an occasion to establish contact with members of parliament and church ministers. This meeting had a very positive outcome and gave The Salvation Army in Finland the possibility to further develop connections and projects.

Pelastusarmeija is an official member of the Finnish Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings (IKV Platform), and the NCP for Finland represents The Salvation Army in Finland. The IKV Platform meets four times a year and is a network of civil society organisations and researchers. The purpose of the platform is to



PELASTUSARMEIJA.FI/IHMISKAUPPA

distribute and provide information about action against trafficking in human beings and victim assistance, as well as to join forces to advocate for the improvement and strengthening of anti-trafficking actions and victim assistance structures. The platform is coordinated by Victim Support Finland. The aim of the IKV Platform is to bring together civil society actors and researchers in order to share knowledge and experiences in combatting trafficking in human beings and assisting victims of trafficking, as well as to influence the structures through which victim assistance and work against trafficking can be improved and strengthened. The Salvation Army participates in many other events and training focused on trafficking and emerging research on trafficking.

Projects

The Salvation Army in Finland currently runs a project focusing on prevention, entitled 'Prevention 2020'. As part of this, the Army has designed its own AHT posters and roll-ups 'Against human trafficking – For human dignity',

which have been sent to each Salvation Army working unit (corps and social) for use in special events and training. They have also sent flyers entitled 'See the Invisible' which were received from the National Assistance System for Victims of Human Trafficking (Finland) to each Salvation Army working unit. These flyers are available to everybody visiting the working units and give details of who to contact if there is suspicion of human trafficking.

The Salvation Army in Finland has designed web pages that share information about human trafficking, for example how to recognise a victim of human trafficking and how to help them. The Army has also made a PowerPoint presentation on human trafficking designed for corps use that includes general information about human trafficking, statistics and action points. The NCP has also created an AHT PowerPoint for teaching purposes and has held training about AHT in Porvoo Corps and during women's days and is available to offer training to other Salvation Army corps.

The communication section has written and published articles in *The War Cry* (*Sotahuuto*) and press releases about human trafficking. The annual International Salvation Army Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking was promoted in corps and working units.

Some Salvation Army officers have organised school visits in towns in Finland, talking and teaching about human trafficking, focusing on prevention and safety skills in order to protect children from human trafficking, such as 'grooming'. Children have also been taught about the theme 'Cheap prices come at high cost'.

This prevention project aims to reach more than 1,000 people and the social media campaign has already generated a positive impact within the public. This was made possible through the widespread support of social services and corps leaders as well as Salvationists and volunteers. The planned evaluation of the project will be an important tool for further impact measurement and learning points.

For two years, the Adult and Family Ministries Section of the Army in Finland raised funds with

its 'Helping Hand' project to support the mission of the Army's Mbagala Girls Home in Tanzania. The girls served by this project have been trafficked and the Army helps them to restart a normal life in society. Many Salvationists in Finland are aware of this project and participate actively to the success of it. 'Helping Hand' assists in raising people's awareness of the global scope of human trafficking and offers a practical way to help.

In Finland, social media was utilised as part of the pan-European Campaign. There were four campaign topics: Want to Work in Show Biz (target group women 16-45 years), Super Clean Super Cheap (target group 30-60 years), Construction Workers Needed (target group men 20-50 years) and Daily Fresh Mushrooms (target group women 30-50 years). During the three-week campaign, the web page received 483 page views. When compared to three weeks before the start of the campaign, visitors increased by a huge 927 per cent. In total, more than 55,000 people were reached. The campaign worked best on Facebook, reaching different audiences. Of the campaign topics, the cleaning theme worked best with the metrics selected (link click, engagement and content). As a result of good campaign outcomes, it will be renewed this year.

Challenges and Opportunities

The biggest challenge is that human trafficking is difficult to identify, because it is a hidden crime. In Finland many people think it does not exist here or anywhere nearby. The challenge is to get people including Salvation Army

workers, employees and those in corps to understand the severity of human trafficking, and that AHT work is an important part of our work.

In Finland, the focus of The Salvation Army is still to increase awareness and on prevention to identify and 'see the signs' of modern slavery and human trafficking. Thus, there are plans to organise new training for the employees of the social units and to develop resources to be used for school visits and in our children, youth and family camps.

The Salvation Army in Finland does not have its own safe houses or working units that would/could engage full-time in this important work. But we have the privilege to work in close relationship with other organisations.

The situation in the entire country is well summed up by Senior Adviser Katri Lyijynen from the National Assistance System for Victims of Human Trafficking (Finland): 'The authorities still have too little information about human trafficking and identifying it. The situation has gotten better in recent years, but there are still gaps. This is due to the lack of systematic training.'

A further issue is that the police are not competent enough and have insufficient resources to intervene in situations of human trafficking. There are currently no police units specialised in human trafficking investigation, however the process of starting this unit will begin in 2021. Human trafficking is often a hidden crime and does not reach the police or authorities through reports but requires active and in-depth crime investigation action. Additionally, other actors involved in carrying out criminal procedures are overworked, which results in delays or even cancellations of criminal procedures.



When it comes to helping victims of human trafficking, Finnish structures and legislation are challenging, because different laws may not form a consistent entity. For a victim of human trafficking this might mean that it is difficult to ask help from an authority, because there is no clear path to follow.

Spotlight on COVID-19

Like other countries, victim assistance for trafficking victims has been restricted to phone meetings. Necessary meetings have still been held, but criminal procedures have been delayed. The pandemic has also affected the life of victims who had been able to move forward in their lives and find employment but are now laid off or have lost their employment. They have often been employed in service businesses which have suffered the most from the situation. Sex workers and those who are already marginalised in society are in a more difficult situation now. The risk is that those who have not been victims of human trafficking will become victims because procurers' power over them grows in this difficult situation.

Recommendations for National Government

- Prioritise raising awareness through various media outlets about human trafficking and how to prevent and fight it
- Clarify a pathway for victims of human trafficking to receive assistance.

FRANCE

NCP: Margaret Booth

Contact: emmanuela.merola@armeedusalut.fr
mbooth@armeedusalut.fr

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The French Salvation Army (*L'Armée du Salut*) is part of a group called 'Collectif Ensemble contre la traite' (translated as 'Fight together against the trafficking of human beings') which consists of 28 French organisations that meet every month and participate in joint action to create more awareness in the French population and to appeal to the government to take concrete actions to combat the issue. For more information about this platform and its political recommendations to fight trafficking visit contrelatraite.org

While the French Salvation Army does not have a national task force, it has created a group of professionals that work on the issue of trafficking.

Projects

The French Salvation Army has five centres in which victims of trafficking can be hosted as part of its partnership with the Acsé project. The Acsé system aims to:

- Protect victims of trafficking endangered locally, offering a welcome and support
- Provide a resource centre on themes linked to trafficking to all stakeholders in touch with people who may be victims.

The staff of these centres have been trained on trafficking and how to identify and support survivors. These centres are not specifically for victims of trafficking, but they host, in general, migrants, families in situations of vulnerability, or women who have experienced gender-based violence. In 2019, five women who had experienced sex trafficking and one victim of forced labour were helped.

L'Armée du Salut also has a project to support former victims of sexual exploitation called 'Take me far away from the street' which helps them to create a positive image of themselves through art therapy and spiritual support. In 2019, some 10 women were assisted through this project.

The French Salvation Army plans to join the pan-European Campaign in the autumn of 2020. There are also plans to develop a training programme for next year in partnership with other organisations.

Challenges and Opportunities

The greatest obstacles are the absence of a national project that trains professionals on the issue of human trafficking and a lack of access to funds to support victims of trafficking. There has been an increase in the trafficking of minors in France and in French nationals who have become victims of trafficking.

Spotlight on COVID-19

During the crisis, the French Salvation Army became concerned about the free premium content offered by porn websites. In collaboration with other organisations, it started a joint action to stop this initiative and sent a letter to the President of the Republic and to other authorities, asking for intervention to defend the victims of human trafficking who are exploited through pornography.



GEORGIA

NCP: Nina Galustian

Contact: nino_galustian@eet.salvationarmy.org

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army is continuing to develop its expertise in the fight against human trafficking in Georgia. The work is focused on preventing human trafficking through trying to inform and equip people before they pick up a job offer and might fall into the trap of traffickers.

During the year the Army leads many small projects focused on prevention. The projects target people of different gender and age.

The national AHT strategy is based on prevention. There are a huge number of vulnerable people searching for a better life. The unstable economy motivates people to find a job outside of the country, paired with children who are looking for easy money, alongside the lack of education. This has proved that the most important thing The Salvation Army can do is prevention, through seminars, projects and training.

The Army partners with A21 in Ukraine to host seminars and to repatriate Ukrainians from Georgia, or vice versa.

Projects

Since 2018, awareness-raising has increased in the Georgian Salvation Army, including advertisements explaining what human trafficking is and providing a number of emergency hotlines if a case of trafficking is suspected.

As part of the pan-European Campaign, a media push was run on Facebook that detailed what fake job adverts were offered to the population with explanation about what risks these can pose in regard to trafficking. The main aim of the project is to prevent people from falling into the trap of traffickers. It was initially planned to take place from June-September 2019, but it is now planned to continue it during 2020 and hopefully 2021. The Campaign used 'fake' job offers which lured people with promises of good jobs, high salaries and accommodation covered by the employer. All these offers were 'too good to be true' but many people showed interest to pick up these offers. This campaign was a great tool to have access to those looking for jobs abroad, to make them aware of the risks of HT and about their rights, as well as teaching how to assess the risks of a job offer. The number of people reached was 142,604. This project provided a great opportunity to provide consultation to the general population about the risks of trafficking and what peoples' rights are.

Awareness raising seminars were held for front-line Salvation Army officers working with vulnerable populations, as well as seminars for the new AHT National Task Force.

The Salvation Army in Georgia runs after-school programmes for vulnerable children and focuses on raising awareness of both sexual and labour trafficking. These programmes take place in eight locations and reach about 200 children a month and are a major risk group for trafficking, as the children come from families with low education and live in families who struggle with poverty and/or addiction. The programmes provide information on the risks of trafficking and how some jobs are 'too good to be true', instils in them a desire for education and shows them how they can have a better life and future. Success stories include children who returned to school because of the project and children who grew in development of their social skills because of the supportive community they were surrounded by.

'The children are our future. And it is very important to understand that we need to grow a mentally healthy generation, with the right roots. It is important to reach them as much as we can. It is a long and not an easy process, but it works. Because if we are equipping them in the right time - in the future we have fewer adverse effects.' - Nina Galustian

Inspired by the Safe Havens project, The Salvation Army in Georgia plans to start a project at the end of 2020 aimed at assisting sex workers. The project will be called 'Restore the Broken Dignity'.

A planned event for autumn 2020 on the International Day of Trafficking will provide an opportunity to do street awareness on human trafficking.

Challenges and Opportunities

Trafficking is a hidden issue and there is very little awareness of it in Georgia. This presents a challenge and an opportunity for The Salvation Army to spread information to the entire population, and particularly those who are at risk of trafficking.

Adults often do not have the opportunity to receive a professional education as artificial barriers are created, such as exams for admission. A person who has not

received secondary education does not have the skills to pass the entrance exams. In accordance with this, age and not having skills creates barriers. This makes people dependent on criminal circles and they can easily become victims of sex or labour trafficking.

The statistics of children and adults working and living on the streets is growing, which is evidenced by the existence of relevant laws. This creates more people who are vulnerable to trafficking.

One major challenge is the lack of funding, as there are very few grants that deal with the issue of trafficking. Another large challenge is the problem of cooperation with the authorities tasked with dealing with trafficking and other organisations working in this area.

Recommendations for National Government

- Increased cooperation between government and organisations working in AHT
- Introduce training and seminars to students in schools and universities on human trafficking
- Take quick and effective steps to combat human trafficking, as the current response has been slow.

GERMANY

NCP: Major Angela Fischer

Contact: angela.fischer@heilsarmee.de

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The German Salvation Army (*Die Heilsarmee*) has increased its work in fighting human trafficking. It is a member of Gemeinsam gegen Menschenhandel (Together Against Human Trafficking, GGMH), a German coalition which was founded by a former Salvation Army officer who is currently a member of the German Parliament. It is comprised of around 40 different NGOs and initiatives that are spread across Germany, including World Relief, Stop the Traffick, Mission Freedom, EFN and SOLWODI. Since summer 2019 there have been various thematic groups that meet via Skype or Zoom. *Die Heilsarmee* is active in the groups focused on prevention, PR and politics. The prevention group is led by the German Salvation Army NCP. Thanks to good relations with International Justice Mission (IJM), legal support is provided to local Salvation Army employers who face the issue of helping people being trafficked. UN Women is another partner in this work.

The engagement of The Salvation Army has become much more intense through the establishment of the different groups. The collaboration of many different initiatives has grown as a result and has produced good networking. The German Salvation Army does not have its own AHT strategy, but GGMH monitors national strategies to combat human trafficking. The Salvation Army is engaged in advocacy through writing letters to point out abuses or to pledge support on certain issues to members of parliament and through ongoing relationships with members of the German government. The German NCP has spoken at meetings with UN Women and participated in advocacy campaigns by IJM and other organisations.

Projects

The Salvation Army in Germany has two services focused on human trafficking, in Hamburg St Pauli and a new project in Hannover. The project in Hamburg works with women working in prostitution, which always goes hand in hand with forced prostitution. In Hannover, work was started among children whose mothers work in prostitution.

Mareike Walz reports from Hamburg St Pauli that there have been changes in the work being done in the red-light district, especially since the start of the corona crisis.

'At the beginning of the crisis, we asked ourselves how we could serve the St Pauli neighbourhood and how we could help. The neighbourhood also includes the women we look after in our red-light work. Because the houses are closed, we don't really come into contact with them. But God has given open doors: We quickly noticed that the need for food and



hot food is really great. For example, we offer a mobile table display in the neighbourhood once a week. There, pre-packed bags are distributed to people who come to us, including some of the women we know from our work. We distribute between 40 and 50 bags every week. We also distribute cold drinks and 30 hot meal three nights a week, which is generously donated."

The Lighthouse Project in the red-light district of Hannover has been growing exponentially since December 2019.

'Everything started with us knocking on doors where God had shown us we would find children and invite them to a Kids' Programme with games, homework and food. Through the kids we got to meet and get to know the mums, sisters, friends, but also the men linked to the families. More and more doors are opening and we are building relationships – friendships even - with women 'working' in windows, brothels or on the street. We've been invited into the apartments and we've eaten, prayed, laughed and cried with them. We're helping them build a life outside prostitution or cope with the life inside prostitution. The next steps planned are bilingual services and a small group for ladies. It is amazing to see God shine his light into the darkest parts of this city and we can't wait to see what he has planned next.'


There are other projects that often come into contact with issues related to human trafficking. In Dresden there is a collaboration with another organisation that saves women from a brothel. The Salvation Army shelters these women until they are picked up and brought to safety. In Bielefeld, women who came from prostitution received state-sponsored employment in the Salvation Army café. Streetwork is also done. In Stuttgart, the Salvation Army helped with the reintegration of trafficking victims into their community. Workshops in schools are held by The Salvation Army to inform students of trafficking, particularly the 'loverboy' phenomenon. These workshops are now held online due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Salvation Army in Germany has not yet participated in the pan-European AHT campaign due to the pandemic, but once the situation has normalised it will look into starting the campaign.

Challenges and Opportunities

Sexual exploitation is a huge problem in Germany, where prostitution has been legal since 2002. Many women from eastern Europe or Nigeria are lured to Germany to work as prostitutes from situations of poverty, either voluntarily or through fraud. These women are usually controlled by pimps. Fortunately, there has been a greater call for a ban on purchasing sex (Nordic model) by both NGOs and politicians. There is a great need to educate society on the connection between trafficking and prostitution, as well as the fact that many women working in prostitution are not able to make empowered decisions in the face of their life circumstances. The Salvation Army is working closely with GGMH partners to advocate for policy changes in this area.





There is a great need to educate the public on the realities of sex trafficking within the industry, as there are many lobbies that deny the reality of trafficking and the coercion many women experience. While it is true that some sex workers are self-determined, there are many who are unable to make their voices heard that have been forced into the industry through trafficking or difficult life circumstances. There is also a need to combat the demand for trafficking by educating young men.

Spotlight on COVID-19

Although prostitution has been banned during the COVID-19 crisis, many women continue to work to make money to survive. Men are not explicitly prohibited from buying sex, so if men go to a prostitute, the woman is punished. This is an extremely unfair situation. In an open letter, 16 members of the Bundestag have spoken out in favour of not opening brothels anytime soon and are even calling for a ban based on the Nordic model.

Recently, COVID-19 cases occurred in meat-packing plants where Eastern Europeans were working in poor accommodation and below the minimum wage. The German government immediately dealt with these abuses and is planning to tighten laws.



Recommendations for National Government

- Implement the Nordic model to criminalise purchasers of sex to prevent sex trafficking
- In the meantime, there must be services in place to educate women on the realities of sex work and to provide exit strategies for women who wish to leave sex work and have suffered trauma from trafficking or other forms of abuse and exploitation. These services must not only be offered by private institutions, but ought to be a duty of the state.
- Work preventively in potential countries of origin and support prevention programmes financially
- Support victims to return to their home country and offer residence permits for those who wish to stay in Germany independent of their participation in criminal proceedings
- Train police and immigration/customs to better detect human trafficking
- Make supply chain transparency mandatory on a national level.

GREECE

Contact: Major Annette Rieder-Pell
Email: annette.rieder-pell@salvationarmy.gr

National set up actions, and partnerships

The Salvation Army in Greece focuses on helping victims of sexual exploitation and informing refugees and vulnerable individuals about the risks of human trafficking. It runs the 'Green Light Project' which focuses directly on addressing victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation through holistic support. Addressing labour and sexual exploitation of both adults and children, The Salvation Army also collaborates with social services, other agencies and NGOs in advocacy initiatives, awareness-raising projects, fundraising events and joint conferences. Yearly workshops and seminars are also organised with other faith-based organisations, churches, NGOs and healthcare providers. It also participates with other agencies in conferences, lectures, and awareness/advocacy-raising events.

Meetings with the Greek National Rapporteur and with different foreign embassies (USA and France) have taken place.

Projects

THE GREEN LIGHT PROJECT builds relationships and holistically supports women in the red-light district of Athens to transform souls and communities, through a wide range of services in the centre of the city. The project aims to build trustful relationships, while providing a safe and supportive environment where physical, social, emotional/mental and spiritual needs are addressed and met through a victim-centred (trauma-informed), strength-based approach. In addition, it provides workshops, life-skills training and additional opportunities for capacity-building, empowerment, prevention and protection of these women. Last, but not least, the 'Green Light Project' identifies and develops potential community-based partnerships and stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainability.


THE DROP-IN COFFEE PROGRAMME runs weekly and provides a safe place where girls can receive emotional, mental and spiritual support, while a plurality of services is available on different days of the week. This drop-in facility aims to meet basic physical, social, emotional/mental and spiritual needs through the creation of a safe, supportive, welcoming environment while providing workshops, life-skills training and additional opportunities for capacity-building, empowerment, prevention and protection. It

provides a space for women to come and spend time, and there is a weekly medical clinic, free and confidential HIV/sexually transmitted infections testing, weekly activities, spiritual care and nutritious snacks. When needed, The Salvation Army is able to connect girls in need of legal advice with a lawyer and network.

A FREE PSYCHOLOGIST CONSULTATION is available weekly to the girls, in a completely confidential environment which provides the opportunity for repeated sessions and follow-ups. Trained to listen to their needs and building an atmosphere of trust and confidentiality, the psychologist helps women who are kept in bondage emotionally and mentally to re-establish control over their lives, and to grow in their understanding of self-worth, self-esteem and confidence. Group sessions and one-to-one consultations are offered for free, to help people to feel comfortable. Weekly meals are organised every Sunday to any woman who turns up at the 'Green Light Project,' while during the week baked goods are distributed. Practical assistance such as clothing, monthly adult and children hygiene care packages, and reliable information on where to find what in the city – are also provided.

EVERY THURSDAY EVENING, a group of trained and dedicated women visits the streets (a designated route) to build relationships, providing practical (toothpaste, deodorant etc), spiritual and emotional support to people in prostitution. They also stop at the police station to connect with girls who have been picked up and to provide them with clothes and blankets. Every week, a Sunday service/coffee church is held specifically for girls on the street who want to attend a non-threatening church service. It's a time where they are able to invest spiritually, finding an open door which leaves outside prejudices and exclusion.

WEEKLY WORKSHOPS are offered to open up new opportunities to those women who want to change their lives but need to invest in self-confidence and build up their capacities. A workshop teaches women sewing as a good resource for their employability, while beginner computer classes are offered to teach basic skills, enabling them to access further training. In the past, free photography classes have been provided to girls as an instrument to express (and gain healing from) a wide range of emotions, hurts and experiences through photos. At the end of each year there is an exhibition open to the public and members of the government and NGOs.



Emergency assistance is provided in many cases, and even pimps and traffickers will contact The Salvation Army, to ask for emergency assistance for 'their' girls in the form of medical attention, clothing, transportation etc. Post-natal assistance is offered through the provision of Moses baskets full of practical baby items when girls give birth.

A similar project was active in Thessaloniki, through a drop-in/coffee time from Monday to Friday in the mornings where women could receive emotional, mental and spiritual support, while a small team used to go out on Friday nights on the streets to build relationships, establish trust and address needs of women in prostitution. Currently, the project is not operating on a weekly basis, but local Salvationists are still in contact with the women and organise meetings with them.

The Salvation Army in Athens also runs a community day centre for refugees and asylum seekers, which among its goals aims to prevent THB. The day centre aims to contribute to the ongoing humanitarian effort in Greece by focusing specifically on urban asylum applicants and their social integration. Practical assistance is offered through supportive case management and building relationships, strategic programming on-site, and referrals and follow-up to other frontline organisations. On top of this, education and awareness on the risk of labour and sexual exploitation is provided through workshops, training and information material that is available in Arabic and Farsi.

A particular range of services is dedicated directly to women and mothers, offering three-month programmes on breastfeeding and formula feeding. In this time, mothers are given dairy items, fresh vegetables and fruit, or portions of formula. Through a partnership with the NGO Amurtel (professional midwives, feeding consultants and pre-/post-natal care specialists) each mother is assessed, accompanied and advised. They are provided with follow-up appointments to address and discuss the challenges and problems that mothers face with nourishing their newborns. At the appropriate time, professionals from the project help mothers to transition their babies to regular milk. Finally, the breastfeeding and milk formula programme provides practical hygiene items that will aid in the care of their babies – diapers (nappies), baby shampoo, soothing cream and baby wipes – through a start-up kit at the beginning of each programme. A weekly mother and baby programme is offered, to teach mothers experiencing vulnerabilities how to better care for their babies and provide fun activities. Initiatives are also organised to create a safe space where mothers can engage with their babies in fun, healthy ways while connecting with other mothers.

Besides the work with mothers and children, a weekly medical clinic is offered in partnership with the organisation DocMobile, thanks to the commitment of volunteer doctors and health professionals. To empower people, budgeting classes on how to manage one's finances are taught, alongside fun activities, discussions and field

trips. Content is provided in Farsi and Arabic, with a special focus on refugee women. Computer and sewing classes are also part of the educational offer for learning new skills.

Challenges and Opportunities

The greatest obstacle to any action aimed at reducing THB in Greece is corruption in the police and government. Other challenges The Salvation Army faces are trying to find the right way to communicate and develop interactions with the police, the government and also with pimps and traffickers.

It is very complicated to try to understand and know the plans of the pimps/traffickers in their dealings with the girls. They always seem to be one step ahead. As well, it is a challenge to maintain consistent contact with girls, pimps and traffickers.

Because of the economic and refugee crisis in Greece, more and more people are being forced into sexual exploitation. In the past, a certain culture, gender or nationality would work in a particular section of Athens, but Salvation Army officers are witnessing that these geographical 'invisible boundaries' are getting less defined and that it has become more complicated to put together a profile of trafficking victims. This has caused a lot of tension, friction and conflict. The Salvation Army is seeing more and more of the extremely fragile and vulnerable population being exploited, such as refugees and underage children. Some women working on the streets are from different cultures and have different world perspectives, values and roles in their home countries. 'More women from the Middle East are being trafficked, and we are understanding right now more and more what this looks like, what it entails and how their culture plays into this,' says Ray Lamont, NCP of The Salvation Army's international task force on trafficking in human beings in Greece. The change of the profile of women being trafficked makes it more difficult to approach and build a relationship with them, assist with practical needs and establish credibility. Also, The Salvation Army has seen an increase of HIV/Aids, Hepatitis A and other sexually transmitted infections.

In Athens, as the local area learns of The Salvation Army's presence and begins to trust the workers, an increasing number of women are coming to the project with their children. The refugee situation in the area is more visible in the streets as the building is located very close to Omonia Square in central Athens. The area has changed, with local hotels being rented at high prices to Syrian families arriving in large numbers. The Salvation Army distributes diapers (nappies) and milk to refugee families here as well as in the red-light district. Every two or three days small vans appear in the area to take families to the train and bus stations in order for them to keep travelling towards their destination country.



Left: An NCP group meeting in Athens

The Salvation Army struggles to communicate with survivors and potential victims and to provide them support, as it is not easy to have resources in many languages (it gets more and more important to provide understanding in Farsi, Arabic, Urdu, Turkish, Bengali and French). Because of this, the work requires translators to understand how the trafficking experience has impacted a person and how to work towards healing.

The Salvation Army in Greece is currently at the point of assessing the various services and programmes provided through the 'Green Light Project' so as to continue building the project up. At the same time, it is exploring the prospects of growing its AHT work in other areas.

Recommendations for National Government

- Strengthen the laws against human traffickers and pimps
- Contrast and fight corruption in the police at local and national levels, and investigate the origins of this issue
- Provide more funding and training for NGOs, first responders and aftercare services/programming.

HUNGARY

NCD: Edina Toth

Contact: Edina_toth@udvhadsereg.hu

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army in Hungary (*Üdvhadsereg*) is continuing to grow in the area of prevention, protection and victim assistance. The Salvation Army has a team of five officers and leaders who are dedicated in the field of prevention programmes and services. Collaboration with other organisations is vital in reaching The Salvation Army's goals in Hungary. A close permanent relationship with the Church Foundations exists, and relationships have been formed with NGOs. Since 2015, *Üdvhadsereg* have been a member of the NGO roundtable discussion at Hungary's Ministry of the Interior.

Üdvhadsereg follows the governmental decree regarding the national strategy for AHT for the period of 2020-2023. The strategy highlights the trafficking of minors, prioritising prevention amongst the most vulnerable in society, integrating the topic of trafficking into the curriculum of public and higher education, development of a procedure for victim referral and adequate financing for assisting victims of trafficking, and the development of cooperation by involving NGOs.

Projects

In 2019 the Ráháb safe shelter was opened, which can accommodate three people. The goal of the shelter is to provide a welcoming environment and supportive background where female victims of trafficking receive help to work through trauma, to be empowered by finding and using their own hidden resources and gaining hope. In addition to shelter, women can receive material assistance for education or for continuing their studies. Rehabilitation is also achieved through a daytime programme at an external location belonging to a different organisation. In 2019 the shelter had five residents, and five requests for help were submitted. One of the residents has finished her studies, attended a course and now has a job.

'I came to the project as a drug addict, as a prostitute, as a woman who was used, tormented and fully lost her family, who was not even capable of providing for herself, as someone who had lost her credibility and a persona non grata in society. I have fought my giants and I have emerged victorious like a real freedom fighter. I regard myself as a heroine and the past is no longer pulling my strings. I am grateful for all the new things in my life that make the past fade away. It was worth persevering.'

- Former Ráháb resident

Within the framework of ambulant care, the team regularly meet with women who have already left prostitution, or who have left the Ráháb safe shelter to follow-up with them and provide long-term support.

During the past few years, as the team became closer to the victims and got to know their stories and situations, it became clear that there was a need to have a more frequent outreach presence in the streets among the women. Together with four volunteers, they visited three locations. During the bi-weekly street visits at these locations, with 35 outreach events, there were 384 meetings in 2018. In 2019 the team visited the women weekly and had a total of 441 meetings.

The Salvation Army in Hungary participated in a course geared towards people in the helping profession to become acquainted with the main aspects of trauma-informed care and to get a larger picture of what effects traumatising can have on the function of the nervous system, on behaviour, on relationships or on communication, all based on the latest scientific research and observations.

A recent highlight involved hosting a team of professionals from The Salvation Army in The Netherlands to develop the professional knowledge of staff working with victims of trafficking. Experts working directly with victims shared their experience acquired during their work and addressed both the challenges and best practice they had learned.

Challenges and Opportunities

Further measures are needed to raise awareness about human trafficking, including closer attention to reducing demand. The determining factor in becoming a victim is the vulnerable situation of the potential victim, which can be addressed by remedying complex social problems and involving the capacities assigned to social inclusion. The hiddenness of trafficking is also a problem, since as a result, there can only be estimates of the real number of victims and the magnitude of the phenomenon.

Victims of trafficking are typically from the most deprived regions of Hungary, such as Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Baranya counties. Tolna and Békés counties are significant source regions as well. The vast majority of identified victims are subject to sexual

exploitation. Hungarian women falling victim to sexual exploitation abroad are predominantly aged between 18-25. Victims usually do not have a supportive family background or can't expect any help from home; they are emotionally influenced by traffickers in the hope of a better future and well-paid job. Even if they dare to report the crime, victims of trafficking often subsequently withdraw it and disappear.

Men of a wide age range without a regular income or housing are the typical victims of labour exploitation because they are easily persuaded of the benefits of working abroad.

Recommendations for National Government

- Joint investigations in cooperation with other countries are needed due to the complex nature of trans-national trafficking cases
- Introduce the Nordic model as a solution to ending pervasive sex trafficking
- Financial support is needed for shelters for victims of trafficking, as well as long-term support for victims of trafficking beyond the mandatory reflection period
- Safe jobs and working conditions must be guaranteed through better labour laws and controls to ensure adherence.

ICELAND

NCP: Hjördis Kristinsdóttir
Contact: hjordis@herinn.is

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army has a national strategy on human trafficking and the NCP sits on a national committee on AHT at the Justice Department.

Projects

While there are no current projects targeting trafficking in Iceland, The Salvation Army planned a pilot project to start in September 2020. It has recently launched the pan-European campaign, but have few results so far.

Challenges and Opportunities

The dominant challenges are funding and a lack of time and resources to dedicate further attention to the issue of trafficking. They are trying to create a safe house for male victims of trafficking, but have not received much attention or support from local government in this endeavour.

ITALY

NCP: **Manuela Castaldo**

Contact: manuela.castaldo@esercitodellasalvezza.org

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army in Italy (*Esercito della Salvezza*) continues to grow its outreach work and is a founding member of a national network. The network, *Alleanza Tesori Raggianti*, is a Christian network that aims to 'equip, empower, and unite practitioners and advocates in Italy for effective action to prevent and combat commercial sexual exploitation and promote restoration of its victims in the name of Christ'. Together with other Christian organisations, The Salvation Army in Italy monitors Italian legislation regarding human trafficking, sex work and domestic violence.

Esercito della Salvezza participates in and organises awareness raising events both in corps and other churches, and sporadically interacts with both national and local authorities. One of the main points of contact is the participation in the Federation of Evangelical Women that has an ongoing campaign regarding women's roles and rights in Italy.

The Salvation Army is seen as the expert and the leader in this area of work in Italy. It has hosted training days for agencies covering topics such as rescue and empowerment, sexualisation of culture, language use and personal care.

Esercito della Salvezza has focused its strengths on several issues, but many projects have crossovers and sexual exploitation is covered in other situations – opportunities for training and raising awareness often arise in local projects dealing with other themes. Several Salvation Army officers meet victims in their daily programmes through outreach services for refugees and corps ministries, including women's ministries, Lentini Corps prison ministry, connection to the Roma community in Pisa, and at Atena Lucana Refugee Centre, where it has been identified that some of the refugees have also been victims of trafficking.

Projects

The Green Light outreach programme in Rome focuses on sexual exploitation of men and women in the city's suburbs. The aim of the project is to build trust-based relationships with the transgender sex workers of the Rome suburbs and prevent them from falling into trafficking or offer a way out of exploitative or trafficking situations. Within the Romanian-Roma community they are noticing more signs of trafficking in the behaviour of the women who are frightened in some way.

Challenges and Opportunities

The biggest challenge is the lack of specific training and the need for human resources, particularly the need of local leaders. There is a worrying trend in the national and local government towards withdrawing funding for safe houses and other services. The legislation regarding prostitution in Italy needs to be revised, as the main legislation dates back to 1958. More protection and certification are needed for agricultural workers.

It is difficult to find official government data or reliable statistics on the origins of the people being trafficked in Italy. Italy is not an origin country for the victims, but it is a key transition and destination point for sexual exploitation, forced labour and forced begging.

The Roma population is at risk and is often exploited and trafficked by local and international organised crime.

Spotlight on COVID-19

The Green Light Programme in Rome has been paused while it is assessed how to maintain services safely. It has been noticed that during the COVID-19 pandemic there has been withdrawal of funding of safe houses and other services for trafficking victims.

Recommendations for National Government

- Revise legislation related to prostitution, as the main legislation dates back to 1958, to offer more protection for those at risk of trafficking
- Increase protection and certification for agricultural workers, particularly migrants who are at risk of and often experience exploitation and trafficking.

LATVIA

NCP: Inese Krastina

Contact: inese.krastina@pestisanasarmija.lv

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army in Latvia (*Pestīšanas Armija*) is part of the AHT platform 'Patvērums Droša māja' (www.patverums-dm.lv/en/) that consists of seven NGOs and municipalities and has a national task force putting together the national players against trafficking in human beings. The AHT ministry works together with the main organisation which is driving the specialised project in Latvia, called 'Shelter Safe Haven'. This is the fourth year of collaboration and is now joined by a partnership with the organisation 'Freedom 61' and contacts with the 'Marta' support centre for women, which is also working against human trafficking. When a representative from GRETA visited Latvia in 2016, The Salvation Army was invited to the seminar to share information about its work to prevent human trafficking.

The Salvation Army in Latvia focuses on preventative measures by running information seminars. These are targeted at all groups of potential human trafficking victims and are held in corps and social centres. The aim of the project is to inform people about what human trafficking is, what types of human trafficking there are and what the consequences and risks are. They also consider where people can get help if they find themselves in this situation and what safety measures people need to take if they want to work abroad. The first seminar was started in the spring of 2015 and it is an ongoing project. So far they have held three seminars/working groups with approximately 25 people in each group. In addition, training on the different kinds of human trafficking is being held, to teach Salvation Army social workers how to identify signs of human trafficking and what to do next. Unfortunately, there is no Salvation Army strategy on AHT in Latvia. Developing a more consistent strategy on AHT will be the next step in The Salvation Army's document for the next years.

Although not working directly with the victims of human trafficking, *Pestīšanas Armija's* anti-trafficking coordinator recognises that forced marriages with non-EU citizens have decreased in the past years, but that the increase in refugees coming into the EU has heightened the risk of refugees falling into the trap of labour exploitation.

Projects

Pestīšanas Armija's projects focus on prevention/protection, reintegration and research. The government's ombudsman is carrying out research and raising the issue of human trafficking at a governmental level, but it is not possible for The Salvation Army to take part in consultations or stakeholder meetings. Across the international Salvation

Army, a special Sunday in autumn has been dedicated to raise awareness about trafficking issues. Since 2017, *Pestīšanas Armija* set a dedicated Sunday in autumn to raise awareness among Salvation Army corps and communities, specifically about human trafficking issues.

Challenges and Opportunities

Society, including the government, does not see human trafficking as a considerable problem in Latvia. People have also turned their backs on prostitution. The view is that, in many cases, it is the person's fault or choice. Any kind of government initiative is slow and not extensive.

As The Salvation Army lacks human resources in its team to carry out the work in the country, it aims to gradually raise awareness of this issue and help society to change its perspective on the victims of human trafficking.

'People are not aware of the risks of human trafficking and think that it would not happen to them. As a result, recommendations and advice (for example before travelling for a job opportunity in another country) are not taken seriously.' -NCP, Lithuania

Recommendations for National Government

- Support more informative seminars in schools, especially in rural areas where the risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking is much higher
- Widen awareness-raising through training and campaigns, reaching out beyond Riga to villages and smaller towns
- Educate people who are working in local municipalities and schools and inform communities about human trafficking, so people are aware of the risks and of the best ways of understanding when they are in trouble and how to react.



Above: Teaching life skills in Moldova

MOLDOVA

NCP: Galina Chetroi

Contact: galina_ketroy@eet.salvationarmy.org

National set-up, actions and partnerships

As one of the poorest European countries, Moldova has one of the highest rates of citizens working abroad, with an important share of the population working in the EU, often illegally. With such a situation, and an incredible amount of job offers available which promise Moldovans a better and easier future in richer countries, the risk of trafficking in human beings is rampant.

Since January 2018, The Salvation Army has had a national taskforce in Moldova and four trained people who meet quarterly to discuss the activity report, progress and future plans. The group consists of the territorial headquarter's programme secretary, divisional leader, divisional children's ministries officer, and the AHT NCP. This group is responsible for implementation of Salvation Army AHT strategy. Moldova has a territorial AHT strategy – the current one is 2021-2024 – which covers all four countries: Moldova, Ukraine, Romania and Georgia.

The Salvation Army in Moldova provides life skills lessons to vulnerable populations in partnership with Open Gate International, and AHT awareness conferences and camps for vulnerable girls in partnership with Operation Mobilisation. Many girls grow up in such destitute conditions that they are eager to do anything to get away and believe anything they are told if given a chance to leave. Many of them believe in idealistic stories about life

abroad and trust that people who give them promises will keep them. None of them know their rights or speak any other language, only Russian/Romanian. The NCP shares that, *'Time with these girls gives us possibility to make them aware about the reality, to show their value and dignity, to prepare them to make "safe" choices in future.'* The work with these young girls is long-term and requires continued follow-up and investment in their lives.

The Salvation Army in Moldova continues to work hand in hand with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to make a first-hand assessment of victims and connect them with follow-up support, cooperating with the NGO Open Heart and participating in forums with the Ministry of Family and Social Welfare of Moldova and with the British Embassy's Charity Forums.

After learning about the annual prayer breakfast for human trafficking run in Belgium, The Salvation Army in Moldova adapted this practice with interested local stakeholders and is looking forward to increased collaboration as a result of these meetings.

Projects

The See me After School Programme is an after-school programme for children with an AHT prevention element. The Army also runs anti-human trafficking lessons in men's prisons and 'train the trainers' awareness seminars for Salvation Army officers who are on the first line working

with vulnerable populations. This project, part of Safe Havens, is managed by two employees and more than 10 volunteers (including physicians and psychologists) in cooperation with Open Heart and Nazarene Church Moldova. The 'train the trainers' project also discusses the opportunities and procedures for safe migration, as well as providing services to those who have been victims. The training and workshops have been positively welcomed by local authorities and orphanages (prevention actions have a special emphasis on orphanages). A psychologist was also invited to talk about the mental impact of trafficking on individuals. One example of the success of these seminars is the following story by the NCP in Moldova: *'After one of the seminars, I was contacted by a corps officer who said that there is a young couple willing to work in Germany and could I inform them and help with assessing the risks of the job offer. I think this is one good example of how people apply the knowledge they learn during the seminars.'*

Home visits, food distribution and private counselling to victims of THB are also undertaken by The Salvation Army. Other services seek to raise awareness of THB and recognising its victims, along with an HIV/Aids/drug awareness initiative which cooperates with the anti-trafficking project.

'Together We are Stronger' is a project that aims to build networks and strengthen cooperation with other services. Thanks to its cooperation with IOM, The Salvation Army is able to go to a location to make a first-hand assessment of victims and connect them with local officials first; then government task forces are set up to help victims (offering criminal law support for victims and temporary monetary support). The Salvation Army also carries out home visits and provides food and counselling.

As part of the pan-European campaign, they have started a media campaign run on Facebook in which fake job adverts were offered to populations with further explanations as to what risks these can hide, such as human trafficking.

'People are so eager to find a job abroad that many of them even didn't put additional questions, only asking how they can get this job and if they need a Romanian passport or if a Moldovan biometrical will be okay. There are so many people who don't know their rights regarding employment and so many who still think that somewhere abroad they can earn "a lot of money".' – Galina Chetroi, Moldova NCP



Challenges and Opportunities

While anyone can fall victim to trafficking in Moldova, women, children and the disabled are especially vulnerable to recruitment. Hoping to find a better life abroad and to help their families, many migrants are lured by false promises and trapped by traffickers. Due to the hidden nature of trafficking and the stigma attached to victims by their communities, the real number of trafficking victims remains unknown.

The Salvation Army is continuing to develop its fight against human trafficking in Moldova and focuses its efforts on preventing human trafficking through trying to inform and equip people before they respond to a job offer that might lead them to fall into the trap of traffickers. The Army makes all efforts to invest in education and give people access to learn a profession, because the low level of education and lack of well-paid jobs are major drivers for migration and trafficking in Moldova.

Spotlight on COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis put vulnerable people in Moldova in an even more vulnerable position, leaving them susceptible to offers from traffickers. This is particularly the case for the many Moldovans who were working abroad in Europe and returned to Moldova during the pandemic and were unable to find jobs or return abroad. Traffickers are using the crisis to their advantage, and there are many people ready to accept their offers.

Recommendations for National Government

- Create a national strategy that will educate children and young adults about human trafficking in schools and universities
- Regulate 'tourist' agencies that are, in reality, sending people abroad for work without contracts.



Left: Anti-human trafficking training in Moldova

THE NETHERLANDS

NCP: Ineke van Buren

Contact: i.van.buren@legerdesheils.nl

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army in The Netherlands (*Leger des Heils*) has a contact person in all regions of the country and is involved with the issue of trafficking at the national level and in six regions. The Army has a national task force and carries out advocacy on a national level, particularly on the issues of west African victims of trafficking and the position of people working in prostitution.

Leger des Heils has a national strategy formulated in a vision document and has a national task force, which was started in 2012 and consists of the different entities of The Salvation Army (church, social work, probation office, international development) which are active at different levels in anti-trafficking. Thanks to the growth of this task force, which meets three times a year, an expert group has been formed with the different areas of social work represented. The task force exchanges best practice, national and regional policies related to the care, treatment and support and the return of victims of trafficking, as well as challenges with colleagues from all regions of the country.

Much of the advocacy work is done in collaboration with other organisations and is part of a strategic consultation of 14 national NGOs that offer care, reception and policy/ coordinating activities related to human trafficking and involves lobbying in the National Strategic Council (Strategisch overleg mensenhandel). The consultation intends to share signals (trends, if any) and national and international policies, both successful and unsuccessful, and discusses changes in the number of victims who have been registered at the national coordination centre and the number of victims residing in care and reception. Some

Salvation Army projects are carried out with sponsorships or donations. They are in mostly indirect contact with the National Rapporteur on AHT (governmental contact point). Contact with other NGOs on the issue of AHT varies in the different regions.

Leger Des Heils is in direct contact with the responsible ministries, attending national meetings to draw attention to the needs of victims. It receives funding from national and local authorities for many of the services provided. Concerning partnership with other organisations, The Salvation Army is a member of the national network. It works in close cooperation with other NGOs in several projects. Major partners in addressing human trafficking are Comensha, Defence for Children (Ecpat), Unicef, Fier, HVO, Shop, Humanitas and Moviera.

In 2020, *Leger des Heils* started involvement in a Fieldlab programme with the police and local authorities to fight revictimisation. The Salvation Army is part of a national programme on trafficking and collaborates on different levels. It partners with organisations such as Bright Fame, IJM and Dorcas, as well as with The Salvation Army in Romania in a project called 'Next Step'.

Projects

The projects in The Netherlands are focused on criminal trafficking and sex trafficking.

- Eindhoven and Limburg: Levenskracht ('Life Force') is a project aimed at people in prostitution who want support or to change profession. The project helps sex workers in a comprehensive and integrated way to take more responsibility for their lives and to improve their living conditions. The Salvation Army also seeks to tackle the network of people the sex workers are dependent upon and to provide guidelines for the future for those stepping out of prostitution.



- Amsterdam: Meeting Point is a place where women and men working in prostitution are welcome for coffee, work materials (such as condoms), and there is information and help in the area of work, income, health, safety and reintegration. The team visits the windows several times a week, and they have a social worker for the women. 'Recht in Zicht' is a project that provides protection and integration by assisting in legal affairs and other issues.
- Groningen: The Overweeghuis (Reflection House) is a citizens' initiative to house women who consider stepping out of prostitution for a period of rest and reflection. There is also a drop-in centre for women, offering a place where they can have refreshments, language lessons, information, condoms, and most of all, a listening ear. The team reaches out to men and women in prostitution who work from home or are outside of legalised prostitution.
- Leeuwarden: Xenia project aims to provide a safe and friendly environment to build relationships of trust and offer hope and perspective through opening a living room to people working in prostitution.
- Work among criminal exploitation of primarily Roma children occurs through a team of 'guardians' who work together with authorities and other NGOs.
- Leiden: Ambulatory care for (potential) victims of trafficking, a specialised team of workers offers counselling and practical/legal help to men and women.
- In some cities in The Netherlands, The Salvation Army offers safe housing for victims of trafficking
- In The Netherlands, the AHT campaign has been on the back-burner this year. Online advertisements had been deployed for a short time before coronavirus came and it is planned for a relaunch this autumn, with

a new website that people will visit when they click on an online advertisement, and the start of a petition. Because of COVID, other campaigns have been given priority, but the autumn will be all about raising awareness about human trafficking.

- On this new website people will be informed about the problem of human trafficking and directed to an opportunity to do something themselves: sign a petition. This petition makes a statement on behalf of the Dutch Salvation Army to the government, to which signatories agree: the policy of the Dutch government must protect victims in a better way and investigate more systematically so as to tackle the networks behind human trafficking. This petition is launched with a playful act, to get the media's attention.

Challenges and Opportunities

The problem of trafficking is complex and often not directly visible. Real solutions on a personal level have a lot to do with offering alternatives to victims. This can be a big hurdle to overcome. To fight human trafficking well takes resources and is therefore also a matter of capacity. The root of trafficking is making money while exploiting others. Forms in which this is done vary and there is still a battle with many 'dark numbers' (where official numbers don't reflect the actual scale of the problem).

Left: Netherlands red light zone

One major challenge is how the police in The Netherlands deal with cases of trafficking. Solving cases of trafficking is time-consuming for the police. It is a matter of urgency, capacity and priority, however in recent years capacity and expertise disappeared by the forming of the national police. In the Netherlands the focus is more on policies and criminals, because the fight is focused on subversive crime. Victims are therefore increasingly seen as a witness/instrument in this fight. Victims have to repeatedly share their story with authorities, which recreates trauma for them.

The laws on prostitution in The Netherlands are problematic, as pimping is not forbidden but they are instead seen as agents for the sex workers. There is an increase in online prostitution, which decreases the visibility of the issue and the assistance they can get from NGOs. There is also an increase in the trafficking of men, particularly criminal trafficking.

Spotlight on COVID-19

COVID-19 has revealed what makes people vulnerable to trafficking, and the situation has exacerbated the situations of trafficking victims and those who are vulnerable to trafficking due to economic uncertainty. The Salvation Army is participating in a national working group on trafficking and COVID-19 and is aware of an increase in sexual abuse and creation of video exploitation of children online. There has been a lack of information on how the pandemic has influenced trafficking numbers, as labour organisations have been working from home and many victims have disappeared from the radar of local NGOs.

Recommendations for National Government

- Train and equip more specialised police who are trained to deal with trafficking cases from, for example, west Africa and Asia, and are trained to work with traumatised people. Include survivors' voices in policy making.
- Adopt British policies that don't require victims to repeat their testimony multiple times and risk retraumatising them.

NORWAY

NCD: Petra Brooke

Contact: petra.kjellen.brooke@frelsesarmeen.no

National set up, actions and partnerships

A national task force is organised within the Norwegian Salvation Army (*Frelsesarmeen*). Led by the NCP's line manager as leader, it includes participants from social services. Task force members discuss suggestions from the NCP regarding new projects or ideas. They also provide and look over the two-year action plan and the NCP reports yearly to the task force.

Advocacy/awareness-raising actions on AHT have been carried out both internally and together with the NGO A21 and with other churches. Political lobbying is mostly done by participating with the national coordination unit and supporting its proposals. Some lobbying happens through the 'Filemon' project. The Salvation Army is part of the national coordination unit, together with others who work against trafficking. It has also initiated a network for faith-based NGOs. In 2016, a website on THB, which focuses on prevention and training for experts, was realised thanks to a government grant. This has been used not only by The Salvation Army but also by a larger network of churches.

As it is not part of the EU, Norway does not have a National Rapporteur. There are two people, one from the national coordination unit for victims of trafficking and one from the Home Office who function as rapporteurs. The coordinator of The Salvation Army's work against trafficking is in regular contact with these two persons.

Projects

The Salvation Army in Norway has a number of different projects targeted to victims of trafficking including:

- Filemon safe house in Stavanger for male victims of labour trafficking and forced criminality (seven beds). The safe house was opened by *Frelsesarmeen*, aimed at protecting and reintegration/repatriation through a process of stabilisation, psychological support and training for developing new work skills. The project also focuses on learning more about trafficking and how to prevent people from ending up as victims of labour trafficking, through dialogue with the service clients. It has also had to learn about labour trafficking in Norway and is developing other side projects, such as providing training and resources to churches that meet victims of trafficking through welfare centres and social ministry.
- 'Trafficking Fengsel' (prison ministry) in Stavanger, Sarpsborg, Oslo and Kongsvinger
The overarching goal of this project is the protection of victims. The aim of the project is to identify and give information about rights and opportunities. It started in 2009 and is now part of the ongoing prison ministry. On average it reaches about five victims per year. Women in prison are less likely to talk about their situation than men. Through this programme help has been provided to people who are in prison because of false papers, having been forced into labour. They have been given a fair trial or returned to their home country through the 'Safe Way Home' programme. Through this project, The Salvation Army has built a good relationship with the prison authorities and the justice system in Norway. It also confirms that is very difficult in Norway to be verified as a victim and that a crime is often more important than the person's status as a possible victim.
- Information centre for immigrant workers.
- Online outreach project for Polish and Russian workers.
- Education and raising awareness.

Challenges and Opportunities

The Salvation Army in Norway believes there is a great need to provide service for those who are not yet identified, to prevent further exploitation and understand how to give best support. Victims of labour trafficking often don't want much help; they want to work and do not see themselves as victims. Some victims are also exploiters at the same time, and these are very complex cases.

Early intervention to provide support has prevented several men from returning to a situation of abuse and has offered other alternatives.

There is also a need to focus on working rights and to help workers gain legal support as quickly as possible. There are reflection groups for Polish and Russian workers, which have a very good preventative effect.

The online outreach takes a lot of time, as it involves being part of many Facebook and Instagram groups with working immigrants. However, it has garnered positive results preventing abusive work situations at a very early stage, even before workers come to Norway.

The prison outreach programme has noticed that the women in prison do not ask for help, because they are afraid of deportation. They have been able to identify minors who have been sent to Norway to work but been stopped and placed at the transit centre for immigrants. We have used the 'Safe Way Home' programme with success for reintegration.

Recommendations for National Government

- Better coordination of the care for victims and a new directive in identifying and verifying victims to access their rights.



POLAND

NCP: Karol Templin

Contact: karol.templin@armia-zbawienia.pl

National set up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army in Poland (*Armia Zbawienia*) is a rather small organisation, present in only a few cities, with an AHT focus on preventing labour exploitation. *Armia Zbawienia* is actively looking for funding to establish strong international cooperation, integration programmes for victims and good cooperation with the authorities as well as developing prevention and research projects. However, it has had difficulty establishing contact with the government and other stakeholders. The AHT sector in Poland is monopolised by a single NGO, which receives the majority of funding, making it difficult for The Salvation Army to establish itself and receive funding.

Below: Meetings in the British Embassy, Poland



Projects

The Salvation Army in Poland is currently implementing one prevention project. The project delivers workshops to vulnerable groups (prisoners, unemployed, beneficiaries of social assistance, young graduates, orphans etc) and people employed in social support institutions who work with the vulnerable groups (social workers, employment centres staff etc).

Following research carried out in 2016, *Armia Zbawienia*, with the support of the British Embassy in Poland, set up the Job Verification Service, a project aimed at prevention of labour exploitation and protection of victims across the country. The project provides practical support for jobseekers in Poland, which in many cases is a 'sending' country in the net of human trafficking. Salvation Army experts verify job offers on behalf of applicants on the basis of a developed framework and provide information about workers' rights and obligations in given countries for those who are looking for a job abroad. The service covers three areas:

- BEFORE LEAVING – experts will check the job offer according to the offer verification model developed by The Salvation Army and present the results
- DURING DEPARTURE – experts provide jobseekers with the necessary knowledge about taking up a job in a given country and helpful contacts on the spot
- AFTER DEPARTURE – The Salvation Army remains in touch with the jobseeker and consults the work situation if necessary.

In addition, general information on the main signs to detect modern slavery conditions are provided to all job applicants who approach the service, together with basic advice on how to protect themselves and emergency contacts in case of need once abroad. The conditions are verified and job conditions are monitored at the beginning of the working experience abroad, in order to allow people that find themselves in trouble to call for help.

The holistic approach of the Job Verification Service makes it a good practice as, despite being relatively low-budget, it raises awareness among people of the risks of modern slavery when accepting a job offer, gives them practical tools to protect themselves from exploitation and can be carried out remotely.

For more information, please visit:

www.armia-zbawienia.pl/przeciw-niewolnictwu.html

Right: One of two lectures given to more than 140 students and their teachers, Portugal

Challenges and Opportunities

Violations of labour code are very common and there is no political will within the government to change this situation. It is still possible in Poland to employ workers on an irregular basis or civil contracts, which does not protect workers' rights. Foreign workers are extremely susceptible to exploitation. Moreover, they are being delegated to work in the EU as employees of Polish companies, as companies are free to provide services throughout the EU. This topic seems to be neglected and workers who have experienced exploitation are not identified and protected.

There is also no clear definition of forced labour in Polish criminal law. This leads to evident cases of forced labour that are prosecuted only as workers' rights abuses. Additionally, prosecutors are not properly trained to deal with cases of trafficking. Because of these reasons, The Salvation Army believes that the low identification of human trafficking victims is not indicative of the reality.

The greatest challenge facing The Salvation Army's AHT work in Poland is the lack of funding post-2020.

Spotlight on COVID-19

Poland has very high numbers of people who lack resources to meet basic needs and has a limited social safety net. These people are now more vulnerable than ever to trafficking due to the shortage in employment opportunities. The government response does not address trafficking victims or their needs. The Salvation Army believes that due to the pandemic and the concurrent economic crisis, the number of vulnerable people will rise due to shortages in employment opportunities as well as the risk of trafficking.

Recommendations for National Government

- More openness and effective cooperation with civil society
- Make more funds available with no formal obstacles that exclude experienced organisations.

PORTUGAL

NCP: Anabela Gonçalves

Contact: anabela.goncalves@exercitodesalvacao.pt

National set up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army in Portugal currently has no specific projects on AHT but utilises the annual day of prayer for victims of trafficking as an awareness-raising opportunity amongst congregations. The Army was invited to talk about human trafficking at a school, and two different lectures were given to more than 140 students and their teachers. Part of the material from the presentations was taken from *Safe Havens*.

As The Salvation Army in Portugal is made up of only a small number of corps, it does not run its own awareness campaigns, but participates in those run by other organisations. The NCP attends an annual conference arranged by an organisation that works closely with the government on human trafficking. The Army is currently in talks with another Christian organisation that is involved in AHT work in the hopes of working together.

Challenges and opportunities

Raising awareness is a challenge in Portugal, because the issue of AHT is not talked about very much and people think that it doesn't happen in Portugal. Most of the time people don't take it seriously or don't view it as an important issue. The Salvation Army has seen an increase in people from Moldova being trafficked to Portugal. The NCP notes that, 'One of the positive things about the Army is that we have access to real stories about real people. And I feel that when I speak about human trafficking, people are more open and they will listen if I speak about real stories.'

Recommendations for National Government

- Create effective laws for punishing traffickers and speed up the criminal justice process
- Include human trafficking as mandatory curriculum in schools.



ROMANIA

NCP: Roxana Sandu

Contact: roxana_sandu@eet.salvationarmy.org

National set up, actions and partnerships

As part of the Eastern Europe Territory, Romania (*Armata Salvării*) is part of the strategy for anti-human trafficking for the four countries that make up the territory. They host annual training with officers, have an AHT month where awareness is raised in corps and social programmes, partake in governmental AHT meetings with different stakeholders, and work with other local organisations to combat trafficking. The NCP is planning to do further research into the human trafficking situation in Romania, and organisations working on human trafficking in the country.

A small task force is engaged in deciding how to integrate AHT work into Salvation Army projects, as well as networking with other organisations to assist survivors of trafficking. This task force also developed and implemented the pan-European campaign. In 2018, the NCP had the opportunity to present at the Parliament and meet the deputies in charge of fighting human trafficking in Romania.

The Salvation Army in Romania has started to develop a network in Bucharest for working with other NGOs in order to collaborate and assist the victims by providing shelter, food, classes, clothes and a campaign to collect gifts at Christmastime. The Army recently worked on a case with International Justice Mission to assist a victim who was repatriated from the UK and helped her access healthcare throughout her pregnancy, provided food and clothing, and later assisted her during COVID-19.



Projects

The Salvation Army in Romania runs a number of projects with vulnerable groups who are susceptible to trafficking. These include educating those people on the risks of trafficking and equipping them to leave the cycle of poverty. For example, the Project for Roma and Romania Integrated Children's Education focuses on providing education, human trafficking prevention and nutrition to children. Day centres, youth clubs and men and women's ministries all seek to integrate awareness-raising and prevention in their work with vulnerable groups.

In 2019, they launched the pan-European campaign on Facebook and conducted a series of workshops on preventing human trafficking to different age groups including young people, teenagers and women, in different schools and cities. The *Safe Havens* movie was used in various events. Workshop participants were reportedly shocked to learn what can be the reality behind job offers and expressed interest to learn about the topic.

Challenges and Opportunities

There is a lack of funding and resources for anti-human trafficking, however The Salvation Army is attempting to further develop AHT work in Romania and engage with other NGO and governmental institutions to accomplish this.

Many young people, especially young women who are vulnerable to trafficking, are unaware of the realities of human trafficking or that false job advertisements are common. The Salvation Army sees it as a great opportunity to be able to inform young people about human trafficking and has been encouraged by the feedback from the training and events.

Spotlight on COVID-19

The situation regarding trafficking during COVID-19 in Romania was unfortunate because many people who came from abroad that could have been victims of trafficking were not able to receive assistance. For example, The Salvation Army received a request regarding a Romanian girl who was trafficked and wanted to return to Romania, but the shelter for victims of trafficking was unable to accept her due to safety measures.

Recommendations for National Government

- Offer more support and funding for NGOs that are engaged in AHT work
- Eradicate corruption and offer fair criminal proceedings, ensuring justice for victims of trafficking
- Increase human resources in the national body dealing with trafficking (ANITP, Agentia Nationala Impotriva Traficului de persoane).

Fight
for
freedom

RUSSIA

NCP: Major Inna Khurina

Contact: inna_khurina@rus.salvationarmy.org

National set up, actions and partnerships

The strategy of the Russian Salvation Army is to inform and educate the people they are already working with about human trafficking. In addition to this it holds training for officers, distributes information materials and cooperates with other organisations.

The Russian Salvation Army cooperates with various public organisations, many of them with a focus on issues that intersect with trafficking. For example working with individuals working in prostitution, with women who have been subjected to violence, or with migrants. In October 2019, the Russian Salvation Army took part in a round table together with other public organisations on the issue of interaction with the government. Another meeting is planned in the autumn of 2020.

Projects

The first project the Russian Salvation Army was oriented towards was awareness-raising, particularly during the World Cup in 2018. Staff and volunteers distributed printed materials and told people about the problem.

As part of a new project in Moscow, The Salvation Army invites young people to its hall and plans to visit students of social education, print articles in the Salvation Army magazine, participate in the pan-European campaign and provide online information. The goal of this is to inform those that The Salvation Army is already working with about the urgency of the problem and to prevent their involvement in human trafficking. So far, the project has reached 100 people, whether as an audience member or volunteers. Articles published online have also reached a wide number of people.

The Army hopes to launch the pan-European campaign after COVID-19, but has had to halt development of it for the time being.



Challenges and Opportunities

The Salvation Army in Russia perceives as a challenge the fact that the law does not adequately cover trafficking, particularly punishment for traffickers. Therefore, it is difficult to bring traffickers to justice or to mobilise the police to action, because they do not have training on this matter. The NCP notes that, 'When communicating with people, you can see their resistance to accept the relevance of the situation and the possibility of being involved to anyone. Since the project is part of The Salvation Army's activities, the religious component scares and closes the entrances.'

Recommendations for National Government

- Actively monitor and prevent human trafficking and all forms of exploitation
- Work out a legislative basis for punishment, accountability and services for trafficking victims.

SLOVAKIA

NCP: Major Inna Chiriac

Contact: inna_chiriac@chz.salvationarmy.org

National set-up, actions and partnerships

In cooperation with territorial headquarters in Prague, The Salvation Army in Slovakia has a national strategy on AHT. There is a limited task force within the country working mainly on prevention within pre-established projects.

Projects

The Salvation Army in Slovakia does not have any specific projects oriented towards trafficking, but there is potential for work it does with Roma to prevent trafficking. Additionally, the work with homeless people aims to prevent labour exploitation and helps them find dignified work.

Challenges and Opportunities

Roma and homeless people are most vulnerable to trafficking in Slovakia, and the trafficking that occurs often takes place within the borders of the country.

The Salvation Army in Slovakia acknowledges that the challenges it faces in stepping up the work in AHT are mostly to do with lack of resources, training, and funding.

SWEDEN

NCP: Hanna Brandvik

Contact: hanna.brandvik@fralsningsarmen.se

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army in Sweden (*Frälsningsarmen*) is a major and acknowledged player in the fight against trafficking in human beings. Since 2013, the Swedish branch of the organisation has adopted a national anti-trafficking strategy, interconnected to the European strategy of prevention, protection and reintegration with a focus on restoration of individuals, human dignity, and to meet the needs and respect victims' human rights and their God-given value.

With its national strategy, the Swedish Salvation Army has set up an anti-trafficking task force called AMOS, consisting of seven to nine local experts meeting on a regular basis and equipped with a budget and three-year strategy. The task force is formed of participants with different backgrounds: the national Salvation Army

leadership, the national coordinator for AHT, the NCP, an international development expert and representatives of the local safe houses and social services. Since the first territorial anti-trafficking conference, 20 local 'ambassadors' based in different locations throughout the country joined together. Their aim is to be feet on the ground in prevention activities and to be ready for referrals of support according to the national policy and action plan. Since 2016, frontline members and officers have received training materials on how to identify and react to what they suspect are signals of trafficking.

The Salvation Army in Sweden leads the Platform Civil Society against Human Trafficking, an umbrella organisation gathering together about 30 organisations currently working on the issue of human trafficking. The Army does much of its lobbying through this platform and also engages through writing articles, contacting politicians on a local level in places such as Gothenburg and Helsingborg, as well as on a national level, especially with relevant authorities. The Salvation Army is seen as an expert within civil society in Sweden and most invitations come through the Swedish Civil Society against Human Trafficking, where it has one of four seats in the steering group. As part of this steering group it comments on legislation, national reports and expert consultations with the EU coordinator's country visits as well as GRETA's country visits. It is trying to push for local engagements through networking and municipalities. Through the civil society group, The Salvation Army works with the County Administrative Board (National Co-coordinating Authority). Funding for projects comes from various sources including some state funds. This is different for different areas of work.

The Salvation Army has a key role in Swedish civil society in raising awareness about the issue of trafficking in human beings: it cooperates with 20 other NGOs in the Swedish Civil Society Platform against Human Trafficking and is recognised as a trustworthy role model and expert, as the leader of the steering group. A close dialogue is ensured with the National Rapporteur and the National Coordinator against Human Trafficking in Sweden, as The Salvation Army comments on legislation, national reports and expert consultations and other regional, bilateral and international bodies and stakeholders, such as the Council of Europe. Thanks to the engagement of The Salvation Army, the first formal National Referral Mechanism was set up in Sweden.

In Sweden, partnerships are held with many different public and private bodies, depending on different prevention, protection and reintegration activities, at national, regional and local levels. *Frälsningsarmen* has joint cooperation with the Migration Board, the police, social services, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, civil society platforms, law firms, regional coordinators, taxi companies and hotels. For more information, visit www.manniskohandel.se

The Salvation Army in Sweden utilised what it learned during the Safe Havens project in its contact with the authorities and in raising awareness about labour exploitation, in particular through the media and in contact with businesses.

Projects

The Salvation Army in Sweden has started two new projects in the past two years: the Safe Havens Trafficking Centre in Malmö and the project Respekt Thai. Other current projects include:

- Skogsbo safe house Stockholm receives women with children
- Lyktan safe house in Mälardalen receives women with children, and men
- Projekt Jesaja in Gothenburg focuses on street prostitution and asylum support but also comes into contact with men and minors exploited through criminal exploitation and prostitution
- Safe Havens Trafficking Centre Stockholm and Malmö (in Malmö the project is coordinated by a partner organisation, Noomi Hela Människan)
- Helsingborg focuses on sexual exploitation but also works with labour exploitation and other forms as needed, but not with children
- Safe Havens Trafficking centre works with all forms of exploitation
- New project aimed at women in the Thai massage parlours called Respekt Thai.

The Salvation Army in Sweden participated in the pan-European campaign by used a social media push utilising adverts as a way of engaging people. It has also used the *Safe Havens* film as a way of starting a conversation in various locations across the country and initiated collaboration with the largest cinema in the country to do so. It has followed up with offers of training. The campaign has linked into the work the Army was doing previously, but it has been more strategic about how that should happen in order to create impact on a local level.

The impact of the campaign so far is further engagement with the County Boards on vulnerable EU migrants, as The Salvation Army is the only NGO to work with labour exploitation in Sweden. This has led to some further training opportunities and practical engagement.

Challenges and Opportunities

Funding and scalability are the largest challenges for The Salvation Army in Sweden. The NCP notes that, 'Starting a new project is one thing, keeping it is another, growing it is very difficult due to financial constraints and the way The Salvation Army in Sweden currently organises itself. This is the case for many NGOs in Sweden, and we remain one of the largest organisations, however each service is relatively small. For real impact we'd need to see some further investment into this area.'

Due to the Dublin mechanism for asylum, The Salvation Army in Sweden found out that many victims of trafficking are very reluctant to report to the police, even after the assistance of NGOs, which normally have to approach and identify victims out of their own resources. This means that these victims are not and will not be included in the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), because of their fear of being sent back to the EU country of access and application, where they fear the risk of being re trafficked.

In recent years, the share of victims from third countries (often undocumented) has increased a lot: more and more minors, and especially children coming from Nigeria and western Africa, have been rescued from trafficking and slavery conditions. Other frequent nationalities are Moroccans and Afghanistani. More and more registered cases of modern slavery concern minorities, including many child-marriage and begging cases identified in the Roma minority. Lastly, many people who fall into the trafficking net are trying to escape from honour-related violence and persecution, especially in countries such as Albania and Kosovo.

Spotlight on COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis has led to fewer referrals, and people who are in services are potentially staying longer. Exploitation is ongoing throughout the crisis and people who are already vulnerable are increasingly so, leading to a situation ripe for trafficking.

Recommendations for National Government

- Invest in grassroots work on a local level to raise awareness and increase identification of trafficking victims
- Thanks to its activity within the civil society platform, every year The Salvation Army produces a comprehensive and detailed list of recommendations, both to national government and the Council of Europe
- The recommendations, referring to national policy on identification assistance and data collection on THB, cooperation, funding and research, and the functioning of a legal procedure, are available at www.manniskohandel.se

SWITZERLAND

NCP: Katharina Baumberger

Contact: christine.volet@armedusalt.ch,
katharina_baumberger@heilsarmee.ch

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army is a well-established institution in Switzerland, with more than 50 church communities and 30 social projects in French- and German-speaking Switzerland, and a tradition of assisting and supporting people who have been trafficked, with a special focus on victims of sexual exploitation.

An AHT task force was set up in Switzerland in 2012. Christine Volet-Sterckx, Leader of Social Justice since September 2015, and Commissioner Jane Paone lead the task force. The community work, THQ departments of Communications and Social Services, as well as corps and Rahab Outreaches, are represented. In 2020 International Development will also be represented. The task force encourages Salvation Army programmes to raise awareness of trafficking and observe the International Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking. They also set priorities for each year in terms of working with human trafficking. Priorities for 2019 included: raising awareness amongst Salvation Army officers, Salvationists and employees; offer workshops and lectures in social services; maintain and improve networking with NGOs; and collaborate with travailPLUS in Empowerment, a project that started in 2018 and targets women who want to leave prostitution. A manual about human trafficking was presented at the national training event for leaders of the Social Services, during which other events were organised and attended by 815 people on the topic of human trafficking.

The leaders of Rahab projects participate regularly in the Basel Round Table on Prostitution and in NGO meetings in Zurich where governmental authorities are represented. The Salvation Army in Switzerland supports FIZ Zurich, an organisation which helps migrants and trafficking victims prepare for trial and/or return to their native countries. It also actively participates in national meetings for church leaders by the national hotline for victims of trafficking, as well as the mandated shelters for victims of trafficking. The Salvation Army has been approached by the government to temporarily host victims when shelters are unavailable.

Projects

The Salvation Army in Switzerland runs two projects focusing on sexual exploitation. It also runs three Rahab Outreaches to women in prostitution and potential victims of sexual exploitation, which have seen success in women

leaving prostitution and precarious situations, some returning to their home countries and some finding other jobs and staying in Switzerland.

In the autumn of 2018, a new empowerment-based project was started aimed at accompanying and supporting women in the exit process of prostitution, among them victims of trafficking and victims of organised violence. This project has seen women undergo 'unbelievable change' and opened the door to networking and partnerships with other organisations that are fighting this crime.

In 2019 Switzerland joined the pan-European AHT campaign. The task force decided to focus on an internal campaign (members of corps and visitors of Army websites) with the subject 'consumerism'. They aimed to question the buying of cheap goods and services and therefore used online info letters. The focus was on labour exploitation in the agriculture, catering, textile and manicure industries, and reached 549 people/clicks.





Challenges and Opportunities

One challenge faced by the Army in Switzerland is the unbroken cycle of poverty and unemployment in poorer countries (push-factors) and the demand for cheap labour and products in consumer countries (pull-countries). There is also a lack of awareness and concern in society at large.

There is no clear definition of the term 'labour exploitation' and therefore no real engagement to tackle human trafficking in the private sector by giving clear instructions and training to labour inspectors. The liberal laws concerning sexual services are a concern to The Salvation Army in Switzerland. Corruption is also a problem.

Instead of at national level, trafficking is prosecuted at the local (canton) level in Switzerland, which means that investigation takes more time and gets less results. Similarly, there is a lack of national standards, particularly in regard to potential victims who are also asylum seekers. Due to Dublin rules, refugees are often returned to their country of exploitation (first country of arrival). There they risk discovery by perpetrators and re-trafficking. Trafficked persons who seek asylum in Switzerland do not receive enough protection and thus do not press charges and when there is no accuser, there is no punishment. There needs to be a change in these policies in order to avoid re-trafficking, protect victims and ensure perpetrators are brought to justice.

There are some specific challenges faced by the Rahab outreach, including earning the trust of potential victims from Nigeria, working with Hungarian victims who are trafficked and exploited by their own families, and pimps who prevent victims from going to trial or even seeking help.

To meet these challenges, The Salvation Army is working to increase public awareness and suggest measures to reduce demand, such as the Nordic model. It will also continue to support joint actions to improve standards on national and cantonal levels.

Spotlight on COVID-19

FIZ Zurich, a partner organisation that helps migrants and trafficking victims, has reported an increase in the number of people seeking help. Women seem to be increasingly vulnerable to sex trafficking as many of them have experienced an exacerbation of difficult life circumstances throughout the pandemic.

Recommendations for National Government

- Establish a clear definition of the term 'labour exploitation' and increase engagement to tackle human trafficking in the private sector
- Invest in training and clear instructions for labour inspectors
- Reconsider the liberal laws concerning sexual services and consider changing policy to the Nordic model
- Prosecute trafficking on a national level rather than on a cantonal level in order to invest less time and get better results
- Establish clear and binding standards, applicable on national and cantonal levels, for potential victims among asylum seekers
- Adjust the Dublin-III regulation in order to protect the victims and avoid re-trafficking of asylum seekers
- Invest in training, awareness of organised violence and consult different NGOs who are engaged with vulnerable people to set up effective laws in fighting human trafficking.

UKRAINE

NCP: Julia Khoroshilova

Contact: julia.tokareva@eet.salvationarmy.org

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army in Ukraine does not have a specific task force on AHT, but the NCP engages with local authorities on the issue of trafficking. It works primarily with local social services in this area. Cooperation has been developed with the police, public orphanages and several charity organisations such as Caritas and the Red Cross (which hosts common projects in some crisis centres) and local organisations such as Femeli, Malva and Zhinocha Gromada. Contacts with the government have been put in place to follow the implementation of the national strategy against THB. The Salvation Army's NCP keeps track of the work of government agencies and services through online resources.

The Salvation Army in Ukraine has recently started a number of initiatives against THB with the aim to inform about the risks and dangers of THB and its different aspects, including labour and sexual exploitation. Several programmes are underway across the country, in Kiev, Lviv, Dnipro, Pischyn, Kharkiv and Kropyvnytsky, including awareness-raising (seminars, distribution of leaflets, often in cooperation of other NGOs), prevention of THB and protection of victims of trafficking. The lack of mass information on this subject pushed The Salvation Army to undertake a role in drawing attention of the issue to public authorities and other organisations.



Projects

The Kropyvnytskyi Corps of The Salvation Army has a centre aimed at creating a safe and emotionally stable environment for orphans, supporting them to integrate in a promising but dangerous society while learning life skills which they would not be able to access at an orphanage. The project involves specialists and volunteers in the project to help orphans to develop life skills for adulthood, with prevention, counselling and AHT videos.

The 'I Will Survive' project focuses on prevention of labour exploitation and sexual exploitation, working with orphans who are very vulnerable and are at risk even when they grow up in shelters and boarding schools. Leaving these institutions, they are the first to become victims of trafficking.



Creating a safe place for children is also the aim of projects in Kiev, Kharkov and Pischyn, helping vulnerable children to leave the street and protect themselves from the related risks. Informal education initiatives, through games and group talking, help the children to become conscious and cautious citizens. After running for seven successful years in Kharkov, the initiative has been replicated in Kiev, and is designed for about 20 children in each city.

With the aim of developing children's life skills, The Salvation Army provides information and seeks to prevent them from falling victim to traffickers. Therefore, it reduces the number of children being trafficked after they leave orphanages.

Fight for freedom

Challenges and Opportunities

An obstacle in the fight against human trafficking is corruption, and the seemingly deliberate actions of the government to protect traffickers who create economic output. At the moment, the focus needs to be on prevention and raising awareness as the issue is not well known in the country, with many people at high risk due to low salaries and the lack of opportunities for many young people. In Ukraine, orphans are extremely vulnerable to trafficking and, to a lesser extent, women and men of working age and pensioners.

Some Salvation Army soldiers (full members) have personally experienced forced labour, including intimidations and the denial of holidays. The Army tries its best to inform individuals of their legal rights and trains people to recognise the signs of exploitation. Although many Salvation Army experts feel it is pretty much impossible to change the minds of the older generations about work and the risks of THB, it is possible to raise awareness among younger generations from an early age. Creating a safe haven for people is the aim of The Salvation Army in all its projects across the country, and especially when dealing with internally displaced people.

Recommendations for National Government

- Improve operational efficiency and eradicate corruption
- Focus on better preventions and awareness-raising campaigns across the country.



UNITED KINGDOM

NCP: Kathy Betteridge

Contact: kathy.betteridge@salvationarmy.org.uk

National set-up, actions and partnerships

The Salvation Army's Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Unit (ATMS) has a high-profile position within England and Wales as, since 2011, it has been the main contract holder for the coordination of care to victims of modern slavery from the British government. It manages 12 not-for-profit subcontractors as well as a direct service provider. The Salvation Army has trained up, and acts as, first responders, conducting interviews for the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and Initial Assessment (IA) risk management for potential victims.

In this role, The Salvation Army conducts numerous training presentations to frontline workers including legal, social, medical and police agencies, while it is often invited to provide speeches to churches, schools and universities. The Salvation Army is also present in the media, giving interviews to local and national newspapers, radio stations, and television networks, reaching more than 116.7 million people in 2017. On top of this strong engagement, weekly involvement in the fight against THB is dealt with at the local level, through local Salvation Army corps and churches speaking to raise awareness and increase involvement in volunteering.

The department is part of the Human Trafficking Forum advisory group which lobbies the government and has regular meetings with the office of the Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Dame Sara Thornton. Moreover, it is

present on various government committees for AHT stakeholders. It has been invited to the Home Office to address international groups of civil servants and to promote work against THB in their own countries.

The Salvation Army in the UK is involved in many forums to combat human trafficking. It has regular meetings with the UK Home Office and other government departments and is invited to and attends numerous meetings and is a key stakeholder in many. Networking is also key to its role, as it partners with numerous NGOs to raise awareness, train and offer support. It provides training to a wide range of stakeholders.

The Salvation Army has capitalised on its expertise and capacity after many years of work on modern slavery and sexual exploitation in the country. It has a number of international programmes building capacity and resources abroad to better address THB. In the past 20 years, several programmes have been started in many additional European countries, while technical support and capacity building was provided to Poland and Ukraine in recent years. Safe houses, community awareness campaigns, survivors' recovery programmes, prevention actions towards children, vocational training programmes for survivors and provision of legal support to survivors are a few of the services provided in Nigeria, the Philippines, Malawi, Tanzania, Ghana, Bangladesh, east India and Nepal. After initially starting as project-based services, many of these programmes have been taken over by local professionals and Salvation Army officers in the countries, and have become part of the tactical response to the plague of trafficking.

Fight for freedom


Projects

The Salvation Army in the UK manages the UK Government contract (valued at £23 million) that gives specialist support to potential victims of trafficking. It offers safe house accommodation and outreach support and has 11 subcontractors who help to deliver this specialist support. It has managed this contract since 2011 and has supported more than 10,000 clients. The Salvation Army's action in rescuing, protecting and reintegrating victims of THB counts on more than 40 safe houses across the country, based around England and Wales in confidential locations, and coordinated from the office in Birmingham with more than 4,000 in their service across England and Wales. Seven of these houses are directly managed by The Salvation Army, which is committed to providing a holistic approach to victims' needs, with safe accommodation, medical support, counselling, legal support and support to education. In the past few years, these services have grown exponentially. All of the services support potential victims of both labour and sexual exploitation as well as other forms of trafficking. The Army also supports children who are with their parents in the service, but do not work with independent children, as they are supported by the local authority.

The aim of this vast network is to allocate victims of modern slavery to suitable support during a reflection and recovery period. A caseworker tailors support to the needs of the client within the provisions set out in the Palermo Protocol 3, helping to restore dignity, self-worth, and independence, and facilitating a safe move-on out of the service. The average support for those staying in a safe house is 136 days, and for those receiving outreach support it is 312 days. The first contact takes place thanks to a referral telephone line operating 24/7, with first responders conducting phone interviews of potential victims to enable access to NRM support. About 60 volunteers of this hotline have also

been trained by the ATMS unit as first responders to conduct face-to-face interviews to get potential victims into the NRM. Around 600 volunteers are included in a database managed from the Birmingham offices as drivers and chaperones around England and Wales, with journeys organised as necessary to conduct victims to a place of safety. A national coordinator operates an efficient system to contact volunteers and arrange journeys.

Since 2011, more than 7,000 people have been supported through this project, with yearly increases linked also to the better public awareness built up around the subject. The success of the project is proved by the big share of users who are able to rebuild their lives after the traumas and move on. In year six (from July 2016 to June 2017) the majority of people passed through the service moved into asylum accommodation, were set in private accommodation, lived with family and friends, returned to a country outside the UK or were moved into supported accommodation with NGOs or local authorities. Unfortunately, a minority of clients, predominantly Chinese and Vietnamese, absconded or were deemed missing. Sub-contractors are putting in added effort on the work with these communities to persuade them to stay safe and not go missing.



Fright

Since April 2018, six Salvation Army corps across England have initiated post-exit support hubs for victims of modern slavery, with the goal of reintegrating into society those clients who are extremely vulnerable when they leave the support of a safe house. The sudden end of the programme risks leading many of them to being re-trafficked or finding themselves homeless and destitute. The post-exit support hubs aim to provide a safe place once survivors leave the support provided under the NRM and will be staffed by hub managers and volunteers who will help people to move successfully into independent living.

The Salvation Army in the UK has engaged with the pan-European campaign and used social media to do so, and also highlighted it during anti-slavery week in October. Awareness-raising work beyond the campaign is conducted all over England and Wales, addressing front line staff (including the police), church and Salvation Army groups/ social services, various charitable groups, colleges and schools. This action is provided directly by the Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Unit, based at territorial headquarters in London. Interviews on local and national radio, newspapers and magazines also help to raise awareness. The training has led to increased detection of enslavement and trafficking situations, leading to increased rescues – although there are no figures available as the impact of training of a police force or border agency staff is not measurable. Between 2016 and 2017, about 60 training events were conducted, reaching around 3,000 people. An estimated 11.7 million people were reached throughout the media. Increased awareness leads to increased demand for training, presentations and media interviews – new work for The Salvation Army – and consequently an increase in staff to cope with this. A coordinator for all volunteers working on behalf of the unit and as transport volunteers will be hired.

An Introduction to Human Trafficking Awareness course was designed to improve awareness of human trafficking among the global public, considering the causes which drive it and the effects it has on victims' lives. The 20-minute online course can be found on the website of The Salvation Army in the UK:

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/toolkits/hta/

Challenges and Opportunities

The UK has a strong sector of support helping to fight human trafficking. There is still more that can be done with regard to raising awareness, training and prevention. The Salvation Army has a key role to play in delivering this service and being a voice into government to raise awareness of the issues and help develop/change policy.

Traffickers and perpetrators are devious and well networked, and can change location and modus operandi when law enforcement agencies appear to be closing in, while they deceive or intimidate trafficked and enslaved people to keep them silent, even when rescued by the police. Traffickers are often very well off and can also afford good defence lawyers. Modern technology enables international communication to occur easily and confidentially so that cross-border and continent arrangements can be easily facilitated. Greed will always fuel new initiatives to exploit other human beings.

As the government contract addresses adult victims, the major problem of teenage grooming for sexual exploitation and for drug trafficking across countries is not addressed. The highest age group coming to the NRM is between 26 and 39 years old (743), followed by 18 to 25 (523) and 40 to 55 (253). The National Crime Agency (NCA) states that, including minors, UK citizens were the highest number of trafficked and enslaved victims within the UK in 2017 (755), with Albania second (747), followed by Vietnam (630) and Nigeria (248). The total number of victims registered by the NCA in 2017 was 4,714. This is a worrying statistic. Among these people, 195 were exploited in domestic servitude; 606 in labour exploitation; 741 through sexual exploitation; and 1 for organ harvesting. 549 were male, 1,002 female and 3 transgender.

After the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act in 2015, prosecution procedures were simplified, sentences for traffickers were increased and large companies are now obliged to investigate their supply chains. The government has implemented the Palermo Protocol requirements within its Modern Slavery Care and Coordination Contract. It appoints an Anti-Slavery Commissioner to raise awareness across police forces and other agencies, as well as to develop projects to try to improve situations in source countries with the hope of reducing enticement of vulnerable people.

Spotlight on COVID-19

Services were still provided throughout the crisis whilst respecting social distancing. Remote support was offered through Internet and phones and funding was available to support this shift. Personal protective equipment was sourced and used to ensure safe houses were still staffed appropriately, and payment cards were introduced to support subsistence payments and replace cash. Emergency accommodation and transport were sourced and procured to ensure the delivery of services as required. Mental health and well-being were supported through activities and regular support offered as needed. No deaths occurred within The Salvation Army services, and many victims chose to self-isolate out of fear and to protect themselves.

Recommendations for National Government

- Bring up to standard National Asylum Support Service (NASS) accommodation provided for asylum seekers, including outreach support for victims of trafficking. (The Research and Development department of The Salvation Army in the UK is carrying out a survey into the standard of NASS accommodation with the intention of presenting findings to the Home Office.)
- Increase financial support for victims and a freedom to work while applying for asylum plus a designated 'leave to remain' period for all receiving a positive 'conclusive grounds' decision
- Strengthen post-exit support to prevent people becoming vulnerable and endangered of falling prey to re-trafficking after their stay in safe houses
- Allow those who are first rescued to choose different options of recovery, rather than being immediately confronted with the NRM option only.

CONCLUSIONS

Although the staggering statistics of the number of individuals caught in trafficking is daunting, every voiced raised in active solidarity with trafficked individuals has the potential to bring about significant change

POLITICAL PRIORITIES have shifted due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, but the plight of victims of trafficking remains increasingly important. The Salvation Army has a duty in this critical time to continue to advocate for trafficking victims and their rights.

Information and data on trafficking in Europe is essential to understanding how victims of trafficking have been affected and if there has indeed been a rise in trafficking due to the pandemic and national lockdowns.

As restrictions ease, it is important to advocate for comprehensive solutions for all vulnerable groups in order to prevent an increase in trafficking. This could involve funding for social services and poverty reduction strategies, investment in transnational cooperation to halt traffickers and counter the culture of impunity, and commitment from national- and EU-level policy makers to include trafficking prevention in COVID recovery plans.

For all practitioners who have worked in the field of anti-trafficking, it is clear that trafficking does not exist in a vacuum. Trafficking is enabled by systems that devalue human life and flourishing, and it thrives in environments where profit and greed are valued over meeting the basic needs of human existence.

ht
low
edown

Advocacy for human trafficking victims must therefore take a holistic view and prioritise not only the criminalisation of trafficking but also a dedication to upholding basic human rights. Because of this dynamic intersection, the European Affairs office engages in work that focuses on anti-poverty, Roma inclusion, gender equality and migrant workers' rights, and sees human trafficking advocacy as part and parcel of these other policy areas.

As The Salvation Army continues to meet human needs in a myriad of areas, it is important to acknowledge and emphasise that all work to elevate marginalised and vulnerable groups is anti-trafficking work. The Salvation Army is therefore uniquely equipped to prevent and identify potential victims of trafficking, and to play a role in the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking from many backgrounds. This work is valuable and necessary in a society that increasingly values cheap labour and services over the well-being of workers, children and those without viable options for providing for themselves around the globe.

In the pursuit of ending trafficking, The Salvation Army can also play a vital role in mobilising communities to be aware of trafficking on both a national and global scale. The pan-European Campaign was and continues to be an avenue for

the Army to raise awareness of how consumer practices can be enmeshed in exploitative practices and that every voice matters in speaking out about this injustice.

Although the staggering statistics of the number of individuals caught in trafficking is daunting, every voice raised in active solidarity with trafficked individuals has the potential to bring about significant change. Therefore, The Salvation Army has a duty to continue the daily work of training, raising awareness, advocating and equipping others to do the same.

On the EU level, as well as on a national level, advocacy should remain a priority for The Salvation Army. Bringing the voice of survivors and field workers to policy makers will ensure that laws are put in place that correspond to the felt needs and realities for those whose lives have been impacted by exploitation.

The post COVID-19 future is unclear in many ways, but it has never been clearer that the fight for freedom for every individual who has been exploited or trafficked must continue with urgency and determination within The Salvation Army and beyond.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The Salvation Army's recommendations for the EU

- Keep focused on fighting all forms of human trafficking even if new important issues emerge;
- Criminalise the use of services of trafficking victims and prosecute individuals that knowingly facilitate trafficking in the transportation and hospitality sector, for example;
- Continue to monitor periodically and push for the actual implementation of the EU Strategy, the EU Directive 2011/36/EU as well as the United Nations Palermo protocol;
- Improve conditions in countries of origin and addresses push factors leading to migration to stem the tide of those risking their lives in pursuit of safe harbour, offering stability and opportunity, and including the fight against human trafficking as a priority in its external relations and development aid;
- Ensure that labour codes are strictly adhered to throughout the EU and prioritise implementation of regular checks to ensure workers are not exploited or trafficked;
- Provide funding opportunities for long-term (5-10 years) prevention and rehabilitation programmes for (potential) victims of trafficking including specialised services (gender-specific services, services for minors, in-depth psychological assistance, etc);
- Ensure long-term protection and provide residency status for identified victims of trafficking regardless of compliance in criminal proceedings against their traffickers;
- Ensure member states respect at least the minimum reflection period, but The Salvation Army recommends extending it throughout Europe to at least 45 or even 90 days (necessary to recover from the trauma and psychological pressure for the victims);
- Strengthen the monitoring and protection of unaccompanied children among refugees in EU countries;
- Prioritise early identification of victims in a multidisciplinary context, including relevant police training in order to combat the criminalisation of trafficking victims and prevent retraumatisation;
- Develop an EU-wide system for data collection – there is a need for closer cooperation with researchers, and formalise the contribution of civil society in this process;
- Pay closer attention to the children of victims of trafficking who are a very vulnerable group. The safety of children must be included in all risk assessments and the well-being of the children and their best interests should also be highlighted;
- Harmonise legal frameworks related to asylum seekers who are also victims of trafficking to ensure that their rights are upheld.



Recommendations for The Salvation Army

- Provide more training and awareness-raising among church leaders, staff and volunteers, and the general public through continued implementation of the pan-European Campaign;
- Implement demand reduction campaigns utilising, for example, the Barbershop Toolbox. For more information, please visit: www.salvationarmy.org/euaffairs/resources
- Ensure, through ad-hoc training and information material, that staff of The Salvation Army's social services institutes are aware of the risks of trafficking and are able to recognise its signs;
- Ensure that even in those countries where it is not directly active with social projects, The Salvation Army corps (churches) and social centres are in contact with local organisations which work in protecting the victims of human trafficking;
- Activate concrete actions and capacity building in those European countries which have a National Contact Person but are not yet active in prevention and victim protection – through capacity-building mechanisms such as the CPMS (project management) system;
- Have a systematic approach to social services (i.e. hostels and centres) to gather data on how many residents are at risk, and have been or are being trafficked;
- At national level, map what work already exists (state-run and NGO) in the country/region and seek to complement it as part of a national strategy;
- Advance networks and partnerships where relevant with NGOs and national/local authorities;
- Get involved with national GRETA meetings as part of monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention;
- In EU countries, get in touch with relevant national rapporteurs for the implementation of the 2011 directive for preventing and combatting THB and protecting its victims;
- Use EU funding opportunities to start new projects and support the implementation of national work.

Editors: Abriel Schieffellers and Paul Mortlock

Contributors: Mike Stannett, Jeroen Hoogteijling, Ruth Stannett, Charity Kramerius, Lars Lydholm, Tuula Takala, Emmanuela Merola, Nina Galustian, Angela Fischer, Edina Toth, Hjördís Kristinsdóttir, Manuela Castaldo, Galina Chetroi, Ineke van Buren, Petra Brooke, Karol Templin, Anabela Gonçalves, Roxana Sandu, Inna Khurina, Inna Chiriac, Emma Cotterill, Katharina Baumberger, Kathy Betteridge, Julia Tokareva, Wilfred Hermans, Willemijn de Jong

Design: Jooles Tostevin-Hobbs for IHQ Literary and Editorial, International Headquarters

CONTACT US

34, Place du Nouveau Marche aux Grains
B 1000 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: [32] (0)2 274 1056 or [32] (0)2 274 1059

Fax: [32] (0)2 513 8149

Email: (IHQ European Affairs Office)

mstannett@armedusalut.be

rstannett@armedusalut.be

www.salvationarmy.org/euaffairs



INTERNATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

Its **MESSAGE** is based on the Bible.

Its **MINISTRY** is motivated by the love of God.

Its **MISSION** is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination.



34, PLACE DU NOUVEAU MARCHÉ AUX GRAINS
B 1000 BRUSSELS
BELGIUM

Telephone: [32] (0)2 274 1056 or [32] (0)2 274 1059

Fax: [32] (0)2 513 8149

Email: (IHQ European Affairs Office) mstannett@armedusalut.be OR rstannett@armedusalut.be

www.salvationarmy.org/euaffairs